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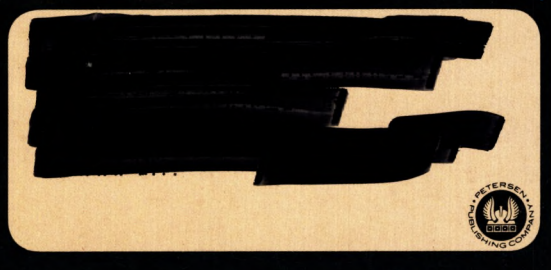

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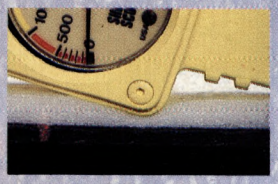

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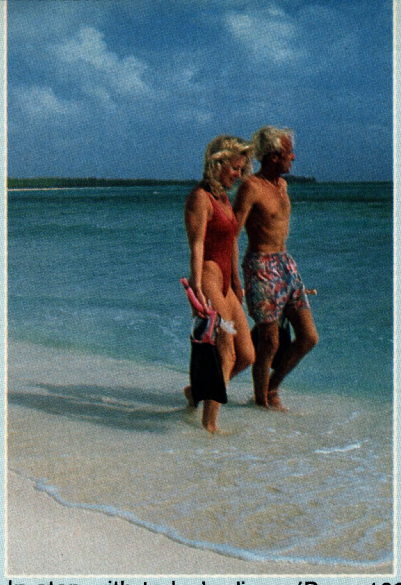

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COVER

This close-up of the face of a Nassau grouper illustrates the exquisite detail that can be achieved with proper photo technique. And, taking top-quality photos can earn you big prizes. For more see page 12. Photo/Geri Murphy.

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SDM Editorial

BY BILL GLEASON

COMPETITION

Is diving competitive? Who is the "best" diver and what makes that person the best? Other sports have devised all sorts of games and tests to determine who is the fastest athlete or which is the stronger team. In baseball, the team with the most runs wins, period. And, it is the competitive spirit that encourages most people to participate in these sports. After all, winning might not be everything, but—quick now—do you want to be on the winning team or the losing team?

The competitive spirit is a strong motivating force in our lives outside of sports. Big houses, fast cars and fine clothes all point out that most of us don't just want to "keep up with the Jones"—we'd like to leave them in the dust! Competition drives our work lives as well, with megacorporations through small businesses all competing in a day-to-day struggle to get to and remain on top. By and large, competition is a healthy, creative force. But, like all strong emotions, when it's not kept in perspective it can be detrimental.

What is competition's role in diving? As competitive people from other sports become divers they all face this dilemma. Just how do divers compete? The answer is, they don't. In the everyday activities of diving, there is no room for competition. This is a hard lesson for some competitive people to learn, but it is a valuable and perhaps lifesaving one.

The history of diving has its dark side and most of this has to do with competition. In the early days, before scuba, there was breath-hold or free diving. Whoever could go deepest or stay down the longest was considered the "best" diver around. Of course, a few people died trying to be the best diver and we all learned that lesson the hard way.

With scuba, it was once fashionable to dive very, very deep. People even attempted depths in excess of 400 feet, using only standard scuba gear. What records they actually set will never be known, since they never made it back to the surface. Divers learned that lesson the hard way, too. Deep diving, driven on by the competitive urge to stand out from the average, is dangerous and absurd. It has no place in recreational diving.

These are the extreme historical examples of how competition has damaged diving's reputation in the past. But, instances of negative competition exist even today. A few examples are:

1. *Air Consumption Competition*: Somehow, we've equated breathing as little air as possible with being good divers. And, while it's true that experienced divers, by and large, do have better air consumption rates, it becomes a little ridiculous to see divers holding their breath and skip breathing (both very dangerouse activities) so they can wave their pressure gauges around on the dive boat. The lesson here is clear: *relax*, breathe normally and don't run out of air!

2. *Dangerous Dives*: Competition has put divers into situations they can't handle. Whether it's surf, currents or depth, peer pressure and the competitive spirit can suddenly put you in a spot you can't handle. You don't realize just how dangerous these situations can be until you've been in one or two. The best lesson here is to increase your diving challenges gradually and under the care and observation of a divemaster. If you've never been on a 100 foot wall dive, speak up on the dive boat. It sure beats trying to remember the out-of-air sign as you're slipping down the wall at 130 feet!

There are some positive sides to competition. Competing against yourself to improve your skills and diving enjoyment is very healthy. Being better prepared each time you go diving is essential to long term enjoyment.

Spearfishing provides competitive opportunities in recreational diving. With spearfishing, it's pretty easy to tell who wins: the one who gets the biggest fish or lobster! SKIN DIVER endorses game collecting and spearfishing, as long as it is done in areas where the fish/lobster population is renewable. If spearfishing is prohibited, follow the laws to the letter! And, game collecting and spearfishing should never become so important that you alter your dive profile and get into a dangerous situation. A lobster is not worth a case of decompression sickness!

Underwater photography, perhaps best of all, embraces all of the noncompetitive advantages of our recreation while still providing ample opportunity to display our talents and compare them to other divers. Best of all, that great photo you take can last forever and influence other folks to take up diving as well. Taking a great photo is a combination of luck and skill—and being in the right place at the right time helps!

This month, SKIN DIVER highlights a unique and exciting event called the Nikonos Shootout. It is, without a doubt, diving's most exciting underwater photo event. It's designed for divers of all experience levels and showers its winners with thousands of dollars in prizes. Perhaps more importantly, it signifies that diving has come of age and matured. Now we engage in an activity that allows us to compete against other divers but does not cause us to compete with death. And, it's done in a spirit of education and fun as well.

SKIN DIVER heartily endorses the Nikonos Shootout and feels that its sponsor, Nikon, should be commended for introducing this unique competitive event in 1986. This year's contest will be the third, and the number of divers entering has doubled each year!

After you've read Geri Murphy's story on page 12, see if you're ready for a little friendly competition. The Nikonos Shootout proves that competition can coexist with safety in diving and that's good news for us all!

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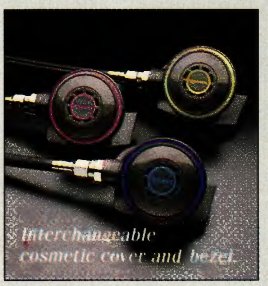

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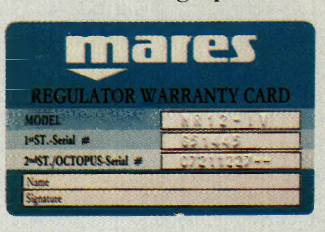

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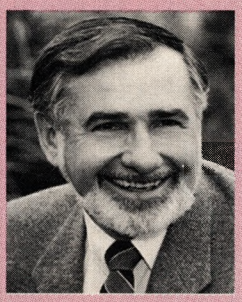

SDM Editorial

BY PAUL J. TZIMOULIS

ARE THE U.S. NAVY DIVE TABLES OBSOLETE?

This issue of SKIN DIVER contains the first peek at PADI's revolutionary dive planner, The Wheel, based on the organization's new multilevel dive tables. At the same time it is making its debut at the 1988 DEMA Show for dive store dealers and their scuba instructors.

PADI has certainly made a bold and dashing move in diverging from the traditional U.S. Navy dive tables. PADI commissioned its own independent scientific research into no decompression diving, with a wide cross section of the sport diver population (in age, sex and experience) and utilizing the latest Doppler bubble detection instrumentation.

Additional scientists and technicians were commissioned for the tasks of computing the new tables, designing a radically new dive planner, and to double check the findings of the original work. The project took more than three years.

But, when the new tables were completed, PADI's work was only half done. Next came the difficult task of developing a comprehensive, easy-to-understand program for teaching beginners how to operate the multilevel, no decompression dive planner for one, two or three dives per day. Finally, there was the costly and tedious task of rewriting all the PADI instruction manuals, audio/visual programs and instructor outlines to incorporate this basic approach to no decompression diving.

It was a monumental task that must have cost more than $250,000 in cash contracts and internal manpower. We applaud PADI for moving mountains in order to help make sport diving safer and more convenient.

What immediately comes to the minds of those who have been diving awhile is, "Are the U.S. Navy tables made obsolete by the advent of the new PADI tables?" And, if the answer is yes, then, "Have we been doing it wrong for all these years?"

Before we rush to judgement on this question, let us first take an introspective look at ourselves. Most Americans (including this one) are seeking quick and simple answers. They see things as black or white, good or bad, right or wrong. Raised on the spirit of competition (baseball/football/boxing), they tend to feel there can only be one winner. The other(s) must be losers.

In diving, things don't work quite the same way. Decompression is a good example. The U.S. Navy dive tables are not the only ball game in town. Other countries, such as Canada, France, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, have developed their own tables. While these may be different from the USN's, they still work just as well and are quite safe.

The same phenomenon has begun to occur in the United States. A number of private companies have devised their own no decompression, multilevel dive tables (actually algorithms) to be utilized in their underwater dive computers (i.e. Edge, Skinny Dipper, etc).

Bearing this in mind, I think it is safe to say the U.S. Navy tables are not obsolete. They represent one tested and proven method for computing bottom times and decompression stops (if required). We know the navy plans to continue using them and it has a considerable population of divers.

In addition, there are an estimated three million people who learned how to use the USN tables during basic scuba certification class.

Now, let's consider the question, "Have we been doing it wrong all these years?" If the new PADI tables are so much better, have we been hurting ourselves by diving with the USN tables? Again the answer is no, provided you have been using the tables correctly.

SKIN DIVER's medical consultant, Dr. Fred Bove, has pointed out that the documented rate of decompression sickness during a single U.S. Navy dive is .009 percent. For all dives, including repetitive ones, saturation and others, the incidence is .038 percent. The old wive's tale about a 5 percent rate of error refers to ancient data from the 1920s and 1930s—before the dawn of scuba.

Those who are using the USN tables need not panic. If used correctly for each and every dive, they are quite safe.

But, if the USN tables are so great, why did PADI spend so much time developing a new and different kind of dive table? The answer is: Because they were seeking a better and more convenient form of dive table that would be equally as safe or perhaps a little safer.

The crux of the problem is that sport diving (and subsequent decompression) is different from military diving. Sport divers tend to move randomly in both horizontal and vertical directions, following a casual multilevel profile. Military divers generally make stationary dives to prescribed depths and with the surface support of a supervisor, timekeeper, doctor, etc. Military and sport divers are miles apart on how and why they dive.

For years sport divers have felt like prisoners of an inflexible, archaic set of tables that did not make allowances for multilevel excursions. Calculating no decompression time limits using the deepest point of the dive seemed to be an unfair penalty and, there were no credits for time spent shallower.

A few years ago we witnessed the development of miniaturized portable computers that could be taken underwater. It wasn't long before sport divers had their hands on a multilevel dive computer. Bottom times could now be optimized by balancing a brief deep excursion with more time at shallower depths.

Ironically, the new multilevel dive tables reduced maximum bottom time limits by five minutes or so, but they also shortened surface intervals and allowed more bottom time on repetitive dives. Sport divers could manage their dives much better and obtain far more enjoyment out of each day.

PADI has taken this concept one step farther by introducing the world's first multilevel, repetitive dive calculator—The Wheel. This inexpensive device allows the new diver to plan all his or her dives before ever getting into the water. He or she can work out as many as three multilevel dives, calculating the optimum depths, bottom times and surface intervals for the best possible diving day. It is a great way for a student to learn the concept of multilevel diving and work out practice examples.

And, should the student eventually upgrade to an electronic dive computer, he or she will have a far better understanding of what that computer is supposed to do. More importantly, these people will not be totally machine dependent! They will have The Wheel as a safety backup.

(Continued on Page 115)

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BIO-ENGINEERED TO ACCURATELY MIRROR HUMAN PHYSIOLOGICAL FUNCTION UTILIZING STATE-OF-THE-ART MICROELECTRONICS

The most important innovation in diver convenience and safety since the invention of the buoyancy compensator. Now you can safely utilize all your potential dive time and have the necessary information and calculations provided automatically in one compact, lightweight instrument. The Dacor Micro Brain™ is designed for easy understanding and readability—always in sight on the wrist where a glance at the "no-deco" triangle instantly and graphically tells the diver's no-decompression or decompression status.

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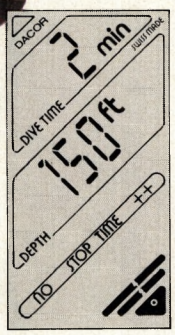
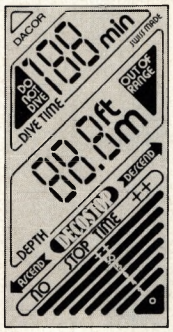


2 MIN. DIVE TIME, 150 FT. DEPTH, LESS THAN 4 MIN. TO DECOMPRESSION



FULL FUNCTION READOUT

16 FUNCTIONS PROVIDE INSTANT INFORMATION AND CALCULATIONS AUTOMATICALLY

- Dive Time
- Depth
- Maximum Depth
- No-stop time remaining
- Decompression stops
- Decompression required
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- Descent warning indicator
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- Out-of-range mode
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Depth:
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Dive time to:
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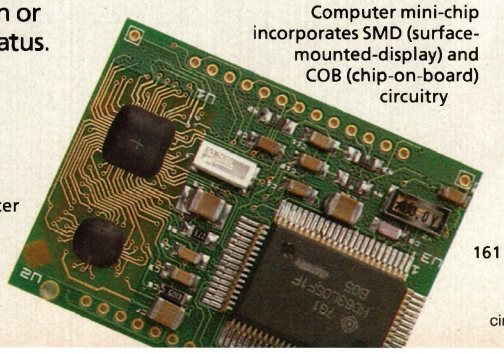

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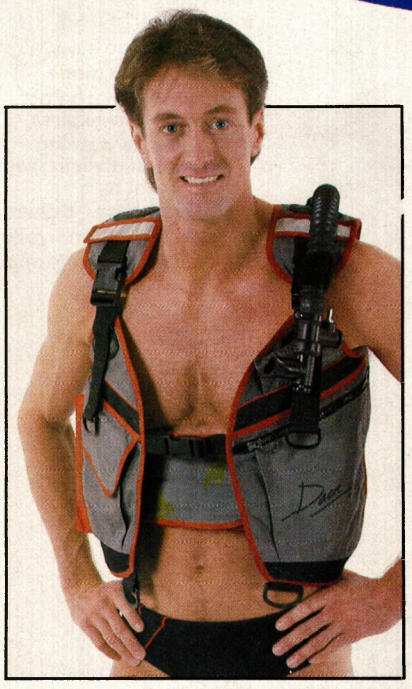

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DOUBLE BAG (XL series) now features Dacor's exclusive integrated quick-release weight system that drops weights behind diver where it will not hang up on BC straps or other equipment.

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- **Additional second stage holder pocket with identification band**
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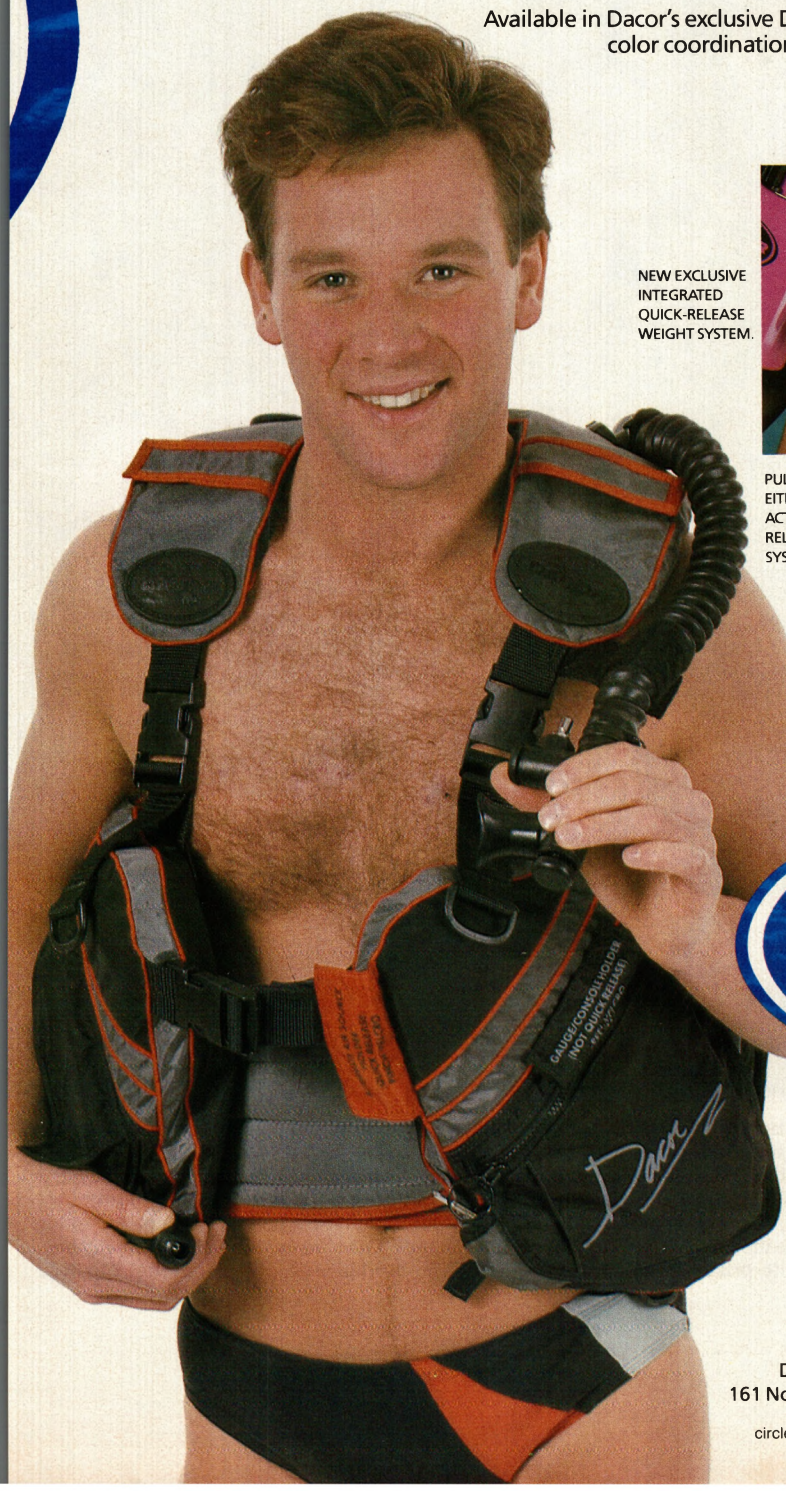

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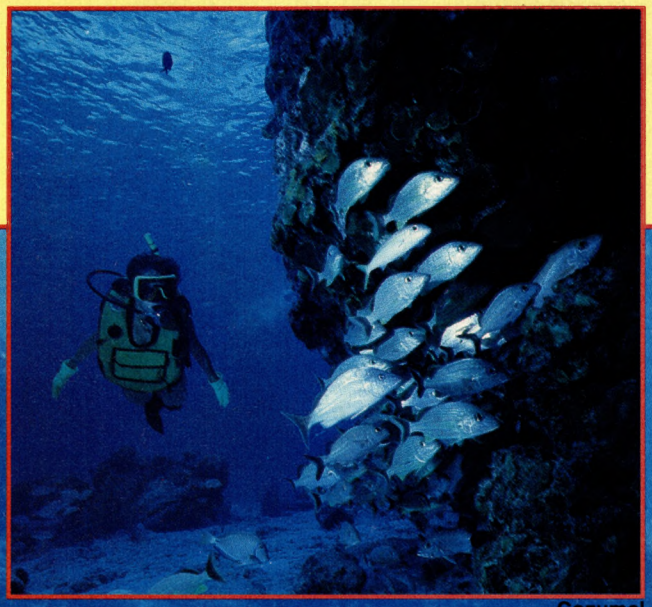


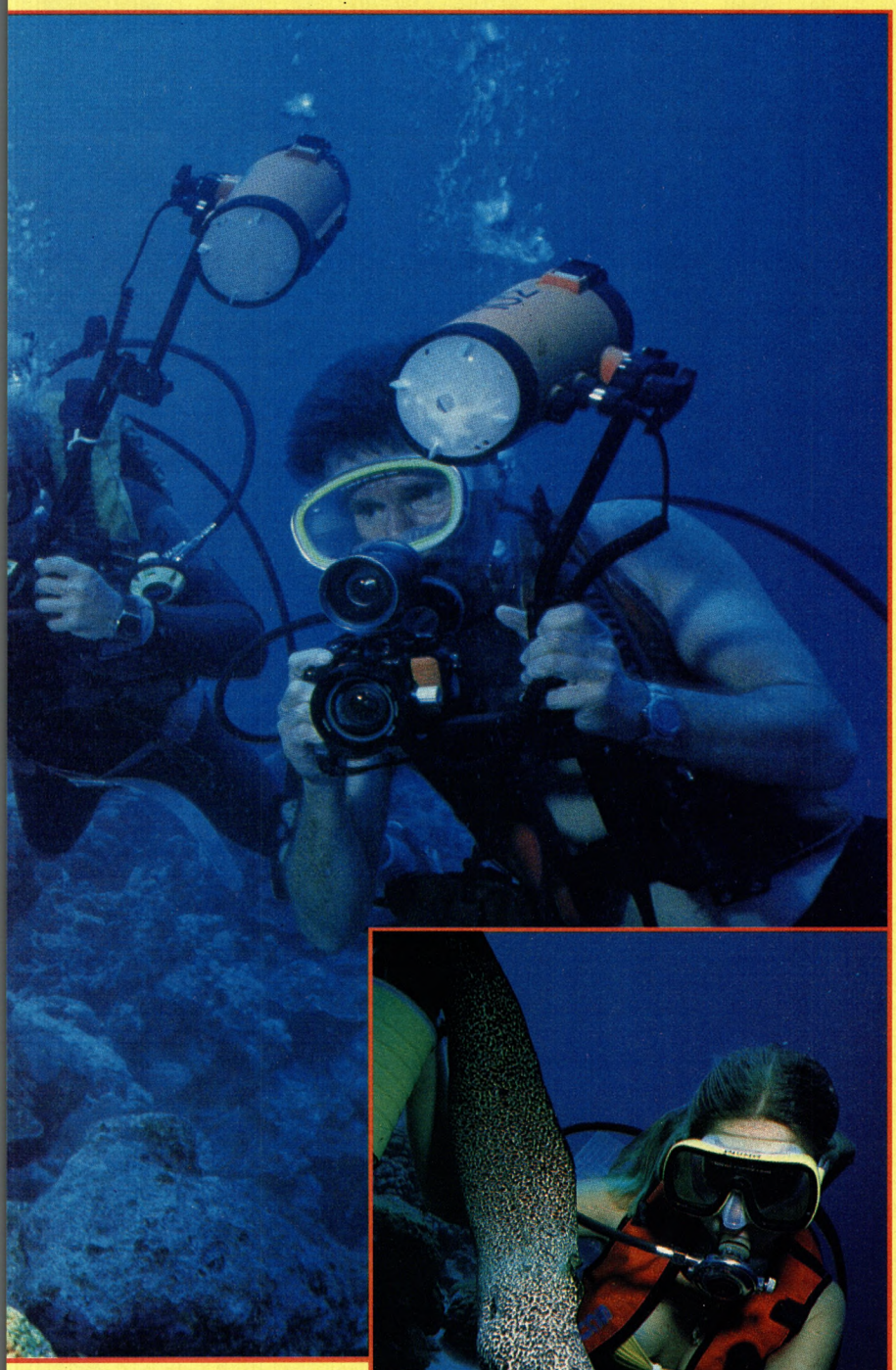
Cozumel

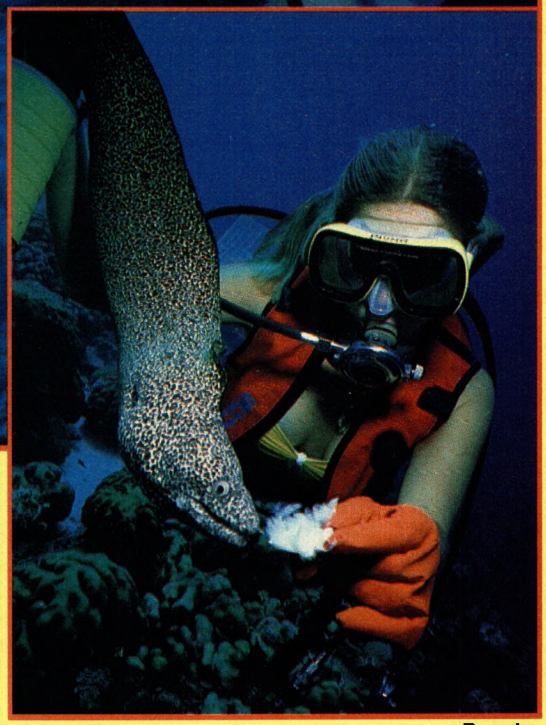
Grand Cayman

photo/Bill Gleason

Shootout '88 will be conducted on Grand Cayman, Bonaire and Cozumel. On each island, three contests will be staged during a one week period: one for close-up, one for standard lens and one for wide angle. While the participants on a particular island shoot their film for each category on the same day, and may even be diving from the same boat, they don't need to compete quite as enthusiastically as above; there are a multitude of prizewinning subjects available. Because each participant shoots under the same weather, water and time constraints, each has an equal chance to win one or more of the valuable prizes—including the overall grand prize worth an additional $10,000.

NIKONOS SHOOTOUT '88





Bonaire

HOW TO WIN THE JACKPOT OF U/W CONTESTS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

How would you like to win $13,000 worth of prizes just for shooting three rolls of film underwater? I'll bet you are thinking "This sounds too good to be true." Trust me on this one—it's true.

Nikon USA is making an offer so good you can hardly refuse. Here is a contest that is easy to participate in, offers fabulous prizes and the odds of winning are fantastic! And, you can do the whole thing while on vacation! What could be more fun?

CONTEST CONCEPT

The people in the Nikonos Division of Nikon USA have designed what amounts to the world's largest and most lucrative underwater photography contest. It is also the most unique. The competition is conducted on the spot. Each contestant shoots a roll of film in the morning and enters his/her best shot in the competition that evening or the next day. Everyone has an equal chance of winning.

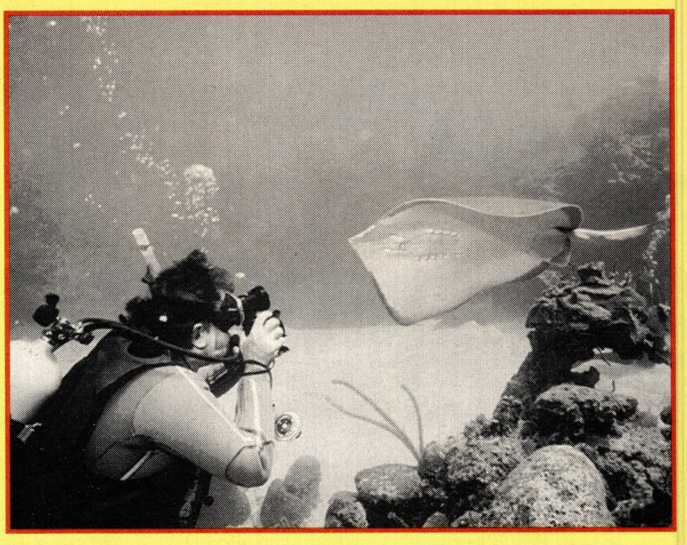
There are actually nine different contests and some 60 prizes totaling more than $72,000. The contests are organized into Rings of Three.

This year's Shootouts will be conducted on three different Caribbean islands: Grand Cayman, Bonaire and Cozumel. On each, three different photo contests will be staged during a one week period: one for close-up, one for standard lens and one for wide angle. Each contest will have three winners: first, second and third place.

This amounts to nine different contests with 27 big prize winners. In addition, another 32 honorable mentions will be awarded to noteworthy runner-ups.

But wait, there is more! Each of the first place winners of the nine contests qualifies for a shot at the jackpot: a grand prize worth an additional $10,000. The contest procedure is very simple. You show up at the Shootout headquarters hotel on the morning of the contest and sign in. You are then given a roll of Kodak Ektachrome 100 film with a registration

Close-up/macro



Wide angle

number on the cartridge. You load the film into your camera and then go diving off the boat and with the guide of your choice. When you are finished shooting that day, you return to the Shootout headquarters and turn in your numbered roll. It is developed (there is a processing fee) and you then select one picture to enter in the competition.

Contestants' photos are reviewed by a panel of judges consisting of representatives from Nikon USA, SKIN DIVER Magazine and top professional photographers such as Rick Frehsee and Stephen Frink. The winners are announced at the end of the week.

WHO CAN ENTER?

Who can enter the Shootout? Here is the good news. You only need be a certified diver and an amateur photographer. This qualification gives every contestant a fair and equal chance of winning.

What are your chances of winning? You don't have to be a hot shot photographer with lots of awards on your living room mantel. Unlike most other photo contests, previously taken photos do not count. Winning this type of contest depends 50 percent on skill and 50 percent on luck. The skill consists of being able to operate an U/W camera and obtain a well exposed, sharply focused picture. The luck consists of happening to be in the right place at the right time to capture a great shot.

THE PRIZES

The prizes of Shootout '88 are impressive. In fact, I would go so far as to say they are fantastic! There is no other competition in diving today that offers such highly valued prizes or so many of them.

The first place prize in each category consists of a free one week vacation for two back to the island the contest took place on, including air fare, hotel, diving, etc. This vacation is valued at approximately $1,500. The winner also receives $1,200 worth of Nikonos photo equipment. Total value of the first place prize is $2,700.

The second place prize in each category is almost as good. It consist of the same one week vacation for two people, with all the trimmings. In addition, the second place winner receives $900 worth of Nikonos photo gear. The total value is $2,400.

The third place prize is no slouch either. It consists of a one week vacation for one person, including air fare and all the rest. The winner also receives $700 worth of Nikonos goodies. The total value of this prize is $1,500.

Last but not least, is the grand prize—the Shootout jackpot. This year it will be a fabulous vacation for two people to Truk Lagoon, Micronesia with a week of incredible diving from the 170 foot luxury live-aboard, SS *Thorfinn*. This vacation of a lifetime includes air fare aboard Continental Airlines to Honolulu and onward to Truk on Air Micronesia. The vacation is valued at $7,000. In addition, the winner receives another $3,000 worth of Nikonos photo equipment. The total value of the Grand Prize is $10,000.

SHOOTOUT '88 PRIZES

RANKING	NUMBER AWARDED	VACATION	PHOTO EQUIPMENT	TOTAL VALUE
Grand Prize	1	$7,000	$3,000	$10,000
1st Place	9	$1,500	$1,200	$2,700
2nd Place	9	$1,500	$900	$2,400
3rd Place	9	$800	$700	$1,500
Honorable Mention	32	–	$100	$100

Total amount of Shootout prizes–$72,600

In addition to the big time prizes, there are some 32 smaller prizes. Honorable mention winners receive $100 worth of Nikonos accessories. And, every contestant receives a commemorative Shootout T-shirt. Kodak is even donating free film for the Shootouts.

THE ODDS OF WINNING

By now you are probably thinking, "The prizes sound great but I don't have a chance of winning." Quite to the contrary, you have a very good shot at winning—far better than Las Vegas or sweepstakes odds. Here is why.

The prizes are big and the number of contestants is very small. We checked on the number of contestants that participated in the 1987 Shootout and the number projected for Shootout '88. Here is what Nikon reported:

ISLAND LOCATION	1987 CONTESTANTS	1988 CONTESTANTS (PROJECTED)
Cayman	150	300
Bonaire	175	200
Cozumel	275	300
Total	600	800

Using the above numbers, you can compute your odds for winning a major prize. Here is how to do it. If you go to the Cozumel Shootout, you would have an opportunity to enter three contests and compete for nine big prizes. By dividing 9 into 300 you come up with a 1 in 33 chance of winning a prize worth $1,500 to $2,700. These odds are very good. And, on Bonaire they'd be even better!

Of course, these odds are based on the "givens;" your camera and strobe work and you are capable of shooting a pretty fair picture. But even here the odds are in your favor. If your camera or strobe

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This offer is available from February 1, 1988 to April 30, 1988, so see your Nikon dealer for details. It's your chance to improve both your photographs and the way you look in them.

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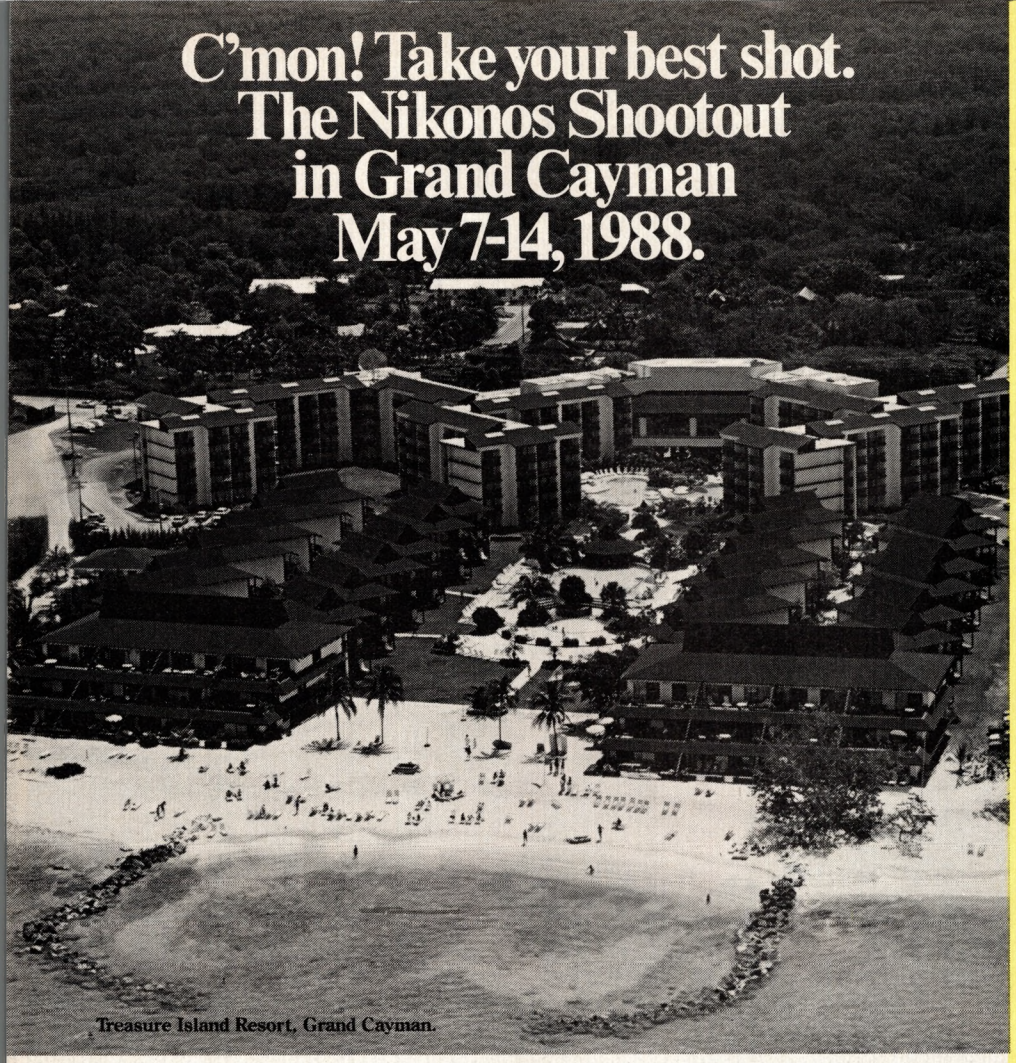
C'mon! Take your best shot. The Nikonos Shootout in Grand Cayman May 7-14, 1988.



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• Hotel, 7 nights, double occupancy. • 6 two-tank a.m. boat dives. • Tanks & weights. • Unlimited beach diving. • Welcome cocktail party. • Free entrance to Silver's nightclub. • Free Kodak film for Shootout.

Package Price:
$660.00 per person.
For reservations, call:
1-800-223-4707 (Nation).
1-800-367-4707 (Florida).
For general Shootout information, call:
1-800-NIKON-US.

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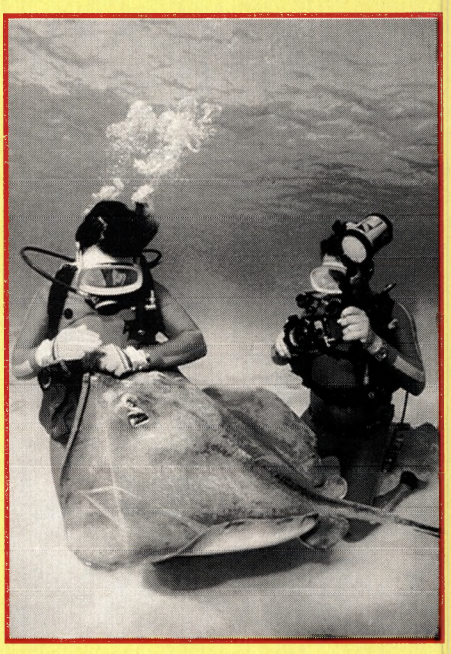
fails in one contest, you still have a chance to compete in the other two. The contests are spaced two days apart during the week and there are Nikon technicians on hand to help you with your camera gear. As for camera technique, a seminar by a photo expert is conducted on the evening prior to each event, thus giving participants helpful hints on how to win the next day's contest.

As for the grand prize, the odds are truly fantastic. This round of competition consists of the nine first place winners from the three islands. These divers have a 1 in 9 chance of winning an extra $10,000 worth of prizes.



Wide angle

Here is a tip for increasing your odds of winning the jackpot. Enter two Shootouts on different islands. This will give you a chance to take first place in six different contests. If you are lucky enough to score two first place prizes, you would then have a 1 in 4.5 chance of winning the grand prize. There is nothing in the Nikon rules that restricts a contestant from entering two, or even all three, Shootouts and winning more than one first place.

PHOTOS THAT WIN

What kind of underwater photos win the Shootout contests? Some are surprisingly simple. It could be a macro shot of a common dusky damselfish or a wide angle shot of a diver admiring a crinoid. In the past two years first place winners have included a bristleworm, file shell, and trumpetfish. Other prize winners are quite rare, such as a macro shot of an orange frogfish. It is amazing what a group

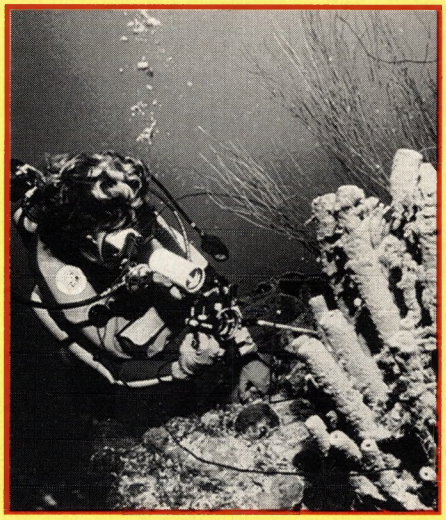
of photographers will find during a contest of this kind.

There is no real pattern as to which kind of pictures consistently turn up winners. For example, the grand prize for Shootout '86 was taken with a standard Nikonos lens while the Shootout '87 grand prize went to a wide angle shot. This year it could be a close-up shot. The results are unpredictable because the competition is spontaneous.

SHOOTOUT ACTIVITIES

One of the nicest benefits of the Shootout is that you get an opportunity to meet and spend time with other U/W photo enthusiasts. Contestants frequently form long lasting friendships with other photographers as they spend time discussing common problems and successes.

The week starts with a Shootout welcome party where contestants have a chance to meet each other as well as the Nikon staff and the judges.



Close-up

During the week, there are at least three photo technique seminars conducted by some of the top professionals in the underwater photography field. These sessions generally last two hours and there is plenty of time for questions from the audience.

On Friday evening there is an awards presentation party and this is, indeed, the high point of the week. Winners are announced, prizes given out, and there is usually a great presentation by Nikon.

Yet, with all of this activity there is still plenty of free time to do your own thing. You can enjoy a splendid vacation on a tropical Caribbean island while still participating in this unique contest.

You do not have to stay at the official Shootout host hotel unless you want to. There is no entry fee. And, you can go out on whichever dive boat you chose. Just sign up, show up and pick up your roll of contest film.

HOW TO SIGN UP

Signing up for the Shootout '88 is just

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June 11-18, 1988.

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Package Price:
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• Hotel, 7 nights, double occupancy. • Unlimited beach diving.
• Round-trip airfare from Houston to Cozumel. • Tanks & weights.
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• Free Kodak film for Shootout.

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For reservations, call:
1-800-446-2166 (Nation)
713-446-2166 (Texas)
For general Shootout information, call:
1-800-NIKON-US.

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SHOOTOUT '88

about as easy as picking up the telephone. First, call the Nikonos Shootout hotline to get listed for a specific contest. The number is (800) NIKON US.

Next, book your own travel, hotel and diving accommodations. Remember, you are not required to stay at any specific hotel nor dive with any specific operator. The choice is up to you. You can stay with friends, at a condo or at the hotel of your choice.

Should you prefer to stay at the official Shootout host hotel (where all the action is), call one of the following numbers to make your vacation arrangements:

SHOOTOUT '88 DATES

DATES	ISLAND	HOST HOTEL	LECTURES
May 7-14	Cayman	Treasure Island	Steve Frink
June 11-18	Bonaire	Flamingo Beach	Rick Frehsee
July 9-16	Cozumel	Casa del Mar	Frank Fennell & Bill Gleason

photo/Bill Gleason

Wide angle

SHOOTOUT ARRANGEMENTS

Cayman.....Treasure Island Hotel
(800) 223-4707
(800) 874-0027
(800) 367-4707 (FL)

Bonaire.....Flamingo Beach Hotel
(800) 367-3484
(607) 277-3484 (NY)

Cozumel.....Casa del Mar/La Ceiba
(800) 446-2166
(713) 446-2166 (TX)

Shootout Information: Nikon Customer Service (800) 645-6687

Once you are on the island, simply show up at the Shootout headquarters hotel on the first day to pick up your Shootout schedule. Then prepare to have one of the best vacations of your life!

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Scuba Quiz

Category: Diving Safety

Topic: Weightbelt Usage

By Dennis Graver

Weightbelts frequently do not receive the attention they merit. We tend to view them as a necessary nuisance to help us get down so we can dive. There is, however, much more to weightbelts and their use, as you are about to see. The following questions should stimulate your thinking about an important piece of equipment and its usage. The answers are on the next page.

1. The purpose of a weightbelt is to:
- ☐ A. Establish negative buoyancy
- ☐ B. Establish neutral buoyancy
- ☐ C. Offset positive buoyancy
- ☐ D. None of the above

2. A weightbelt should be worn so it can be quickly released:
- ☐ A. With the wearer's right hand
- ☐ B. With the wearer's dominant hand
- ☐ C. With a rescuer's right hand
- ☐ D. With a rescuer's left hand

3. Select all correct answers. Weights should be prevented from slipping on a weightbelt:
- ☐ A. For safety reasons
- ☐ B. For aesthetic reasons
- ☐ C. For physical attitude reasons
- ☐ D. To avoid loss of the weights

4. To estimate the finished length of a weightbelt when weights are to be added:
- ☐ A. Allow two inches of webbing for each weight to be added
- ☐ B. Allow three inches of webbing for each weight to be added
- ☐ C. Allow webbing equal to the height of each weight to be added
- ☐ D. Just guess because the finished length cannot be estimated accurately

5. The following are features and benefits of a _____ weightbelt:
1. More comfortable than a standard weightbelt
2. Little or no shifting of weights
3. More even distribution of weight than standard belt
4. Less likely to cause damage or injury

6. To estimate the amount of weight needed when switching from freshwater diving to saltwater diving:
- ☐ A. Add weight equal to 2.5 percent of the total weight of yourself and your equipment
- ☐ B. Subtract weight equal to 2.5 percent of the total weight of yourself and your equipment
- ☐ C. Add weight equal to the difference in weight of the displaced water for saltwater versus fresh
- ☐ D. A or C but not B

7. Suspenders or harnesses to support extremely heavy weights are:
- ☐ A. Necessary when the total weight exceeds 35 pounds
- ☐ B. Permissable when the total weight exceeds 35 pounds
- ☐ C. Unacceptable for use by recreational divers
- ☐ D. Recommended for divers with back problems

8. The weightbelt should be the last item of diving equipment donned:
- ☐ A. True
- ☐ B. False

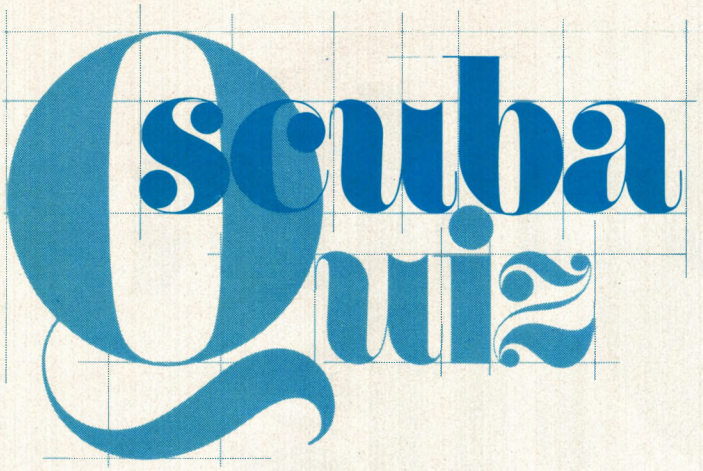
9. To discard a weightbelt, a diver should:
- ☐ A. Open the buckle
- ☐ B. Pull the free end clear of the buckle
- ☐ C. Pull the weightbelt clear of the body
- ☐ D. All of the above

10. Weightbelts are not usually ditched by divers in distress because:
- ☐ A. They are not properly trained
- ☐ B. Proficiency in this skill is not maintained
- ☐ C. Of the physical/psychological aspects
- ☐ D. All of the above

11. Wearing the same amount of weight for all depths in a wetsuit is acceptable because neutral buoyancy can be achieved with a buoyancy compensator:
- ☐ A. True
- ☐ B. False

12. When donning a weightbelt in the water, a diver should:
- ☐ A. Quickly position the belt across the small of the back
- ☐ B. Assume a horizontal position
- ☐ C. Assume a face down position for buckling the belt
- ☐ D. All of the above

13. When donning a weightbelt on land, it is best to:
- ☐ A. Have your buddy position the belt
- ☐ B. Hold the belt by one end and swing it around yourself
- ☐ C. Hold both ends of the belt and step through it
- ☐ D. A or C but not B



Answers: Weightbelt Usage

1. B. Establish neutral buoyancy, or C. Offset positive buoyancy. Some divers are under the impression that weights are to get them down or hold them down, so they use much more weight than necessary. A properly weighted diver can descend only after a complete exhalation. Avoid excessive weighting.

2. A. With the wearer's right hand. A right hand release is specified for weightbelts even if the diver is left handed. Emergency procedures dictate the need for this standardization. All weightbelts should be able to be released in the same way. A good way to ensure a right hand release is to always don a weightbelt with the end without the buckle held in the right hand.

3. A, B, C and D. It is important to keep weights from shifting because it affects their balance on the diver and can lead to weightbelt rotation. This can make it impossible to locate the quick-release and will also affect the diver's trim in the water. If weights are not locked onto the belt, they can be lost when handling it. To look and dive better, lock your weights in place.

4. A. Allow two inches of webbing for each weight to be added. The amount of excess strap on a buckled weightbelt should not exceed six inches. When setting up a weightbelt, allow six inches of excess plus two inches for each weight. This will allow the belt to be set up faster and easier than the trial and error approach.

5. Shot filled. A shot filled belt is more comfortable and is less likely to cause damage or injury. Weight keepers are not required and the shot shifts very little owing to the compartmentalized design. A disadvantage of shot filled belts is the inability to easily vary the amount of weight to be worn.

6. A. Add weight equal to 2.5 percent of the total weight of yourself and your equipment, or C. Add weight equal to the difference in weight of the displaced water for saltwater versus fresh. If a diver and equipment weighing 197 pounds are neutrally buoyant in fresh water, neutral buoyancy can be determined by calculating the diver's displacement (three cubic feet) and figuring the difference in buoyancy for saltwater displacement (five pounds). Or, the difference can be obtained by multiplying 197 by 2.5 percent (the approximate difference in buoyancy between fresh and saltwater).

7. C. Unacceptable for use by recreational divers. Weightbelt harnesses are good for commercial applications where air is supplied from the surface, communications are possible and loss of weights is hazardous. These circumstances differ markedly from recreational diving. When large amounts of weight are required by a diver, other alternatives, such as weight distribution in a variety of locations, should be considered rather than a weight harness.

8. B. False. "Put the weightbelt on last" is an old saying that isn't correct. Divers don mask, gloves and fins as the final items of equipment. With modern jacket-type buoyancy compensators, it is easier to don the belt before donning the scuba unit. This is acceptable. The important criteria is that the weightbelt be clear for ditching.

9. D. All of the above. Simply releasing a weightbelt may not result in the weights being ditched. As the webbing passes through the buckle, it may pull the flap closed and partially lock the release again. Also, the weightbelt can hang up on many items when released. It is important to pull the free end of the belt clear of the buckle and then to pull the entire belt clear of the body before discarding it.

10. C. Of the physical/psychological aspects. When the hands of a diver in distress come up into a "dog-paddle" position, the diver will not put them back down. Reasoning is replaced with instinct at this point. A diver with a problem must take action to establish buoyancy before logical action is no longer possible. Divers know how to ditch weightbelts, but they may not know *when*. Decide now to establish buoyancy whenever a problem cannot be immediately overcome.

11. B. False. It is not appropriate to wear the same amount of weight for all depths, but it seems that most divers do. Compensating for lost buoyancy owing to suit compression may allow a diver to achieve neutral buoyancy at depth, but trim is incorrect because the air in the BC lifts the diver's head and forces him or her to plow through the water at an angle. Weight yourself for the dive. Use clip-on weights for deeper dives and leave them on the anchorline at depth.

12. D. All of the above. A good diver handles equipment well. To look good, learn how to roll into your weightbelt in the water. Once the belt is in place, assume a horizontal, face down position. This keeps tension off the release while you secure it. Learn how to thread the end of the belt through the buckle without looking while wearing gloves. If you are unfamiliar with them an instructor can show you all these tricks in your next continuing education course.

13. D. A or C but not B. The recommended way to don a weightbelt on land is to hold one end of it in each hand and step through it. This prevents twists in the belt, allows it to slip naturally into place as you bend forward, etc. An acceptable alternative is for your buddy to position the belt for you and hold the weights in place while you secure the release.

Do you give as much attention to your weightbelt as it deserves? Is the excess webbing six inches or less? Are the weights locked in place, yet easily changeable? Are the weights equally divided and placed just forward of each hip? Does your belt compensate for suit compression? Do you always use a right hand release? Do you change the amount of weight for deeper dives or for changes in water density? Can you handle your weightbelt in the water as described? Have you practiced weightbelt removal and replacement in the water lately? Do you dive with the minimum amount of weight needed to achieve neutral buoyancy? If you can answer yes to all these questions, you did well on this quiz and you are quite likely a very good diver. If you learned a thing or two from this quiz, imagine how much you will learn in an advanced diving course.

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*Patent pending

Wreck Facts

BY ELLSWORTH BOYD

The pallbearers wore top hats and bow ties, while kerosene lanterns burned brightly on the sides of the antique, horse-drawn hearse that carried two unidentified victims of a 1903 shipwreck to their final resting place. Skeletons of the two crewmen, killed when the *Erie L. Hackley* went down, were buried in a turn-of-the-century style service that doubled as a memorial to hundreds of sailors from Door County, Wisconsin who perished in Great Lakes shipwrecks.

The *Hackley* was ferrying passengers and goods between Menominee, Michigan and Egg Harbor, Wisconsin when a sudden storm struck and sank her in Green Bay, October 3, 1903. Eleven of the 18 officers and crew were lost. John Groenfeldt, retired Moravian Church pastor and president of the Door County Historical Society, says it wasn't unusual for all hands to be lost in many Great Lakes disasters of the late 1800s.

Commercial divers found the two skeletons while attempting to raise the *Hackley*. Their efforts failed, but the skeletons were kept at a local mortuary until proper burial arrangements could be made. While historians and distant relatives of the lost seamen looked on, the Reverend Groenfeldt prayed: "Dear God, we are gathered here in memorial not only to sailors who lost their lives on the ship *Hackley*, but also to everybody else who went down with their ships in Door County waters."

Allen Ward, Welland, Ontario published a fascinating article in American Philatelist Magazine about a postage stamp that saved a ship. In 1920, a United States ship, the *Esperance* out of Gloucester, won a decisive victory in an international race for deepsea fishing schooners off Nova Scotia. Not willing to swallow the bitter pill of defeat, Canadian fishermen laid immediate plans to build a ship that would return the coveted trophy to Nova Scotia. One year later they launched the *Bluenose*, owned and captained by Angus Walters.

In 1921, after a successful season of fishing off the Grand Banks, the *Bluenose* beat the American ship, *Elsie* and brought the international trophy to Nova Scotia. She did so well in succeeding years that the government issued a 50 cent commemorative stamp featuring the *Bluenose* in action in one of its races. Captain Walters accepted invitations to sail in Chicago's Century of Progress Exposition in 1933 and in England's Silver Anniversary celebration of the coronation of King George V in 1935. The *Bluenose* won her final international race in 1938 when schooners were being replaced by large diesel trawlers. By 1939, the *Bluenose* retired from competition to entertain tourists (one of whom was Allen Ward) on all-day excursions out of Halifax.

At the onset of World War II she sat idle at the dock for two years and then was sold to a Caribbean freight company. The *Bluenose* island-hopped for four years until 1946 when she struck a coral reef off Haiti and sank. The captain and crew escaped and the story might have ended here except for an unusual experience by Allen Ward and the *Bluenose* commemorative stamp.

photos/Allen Ward

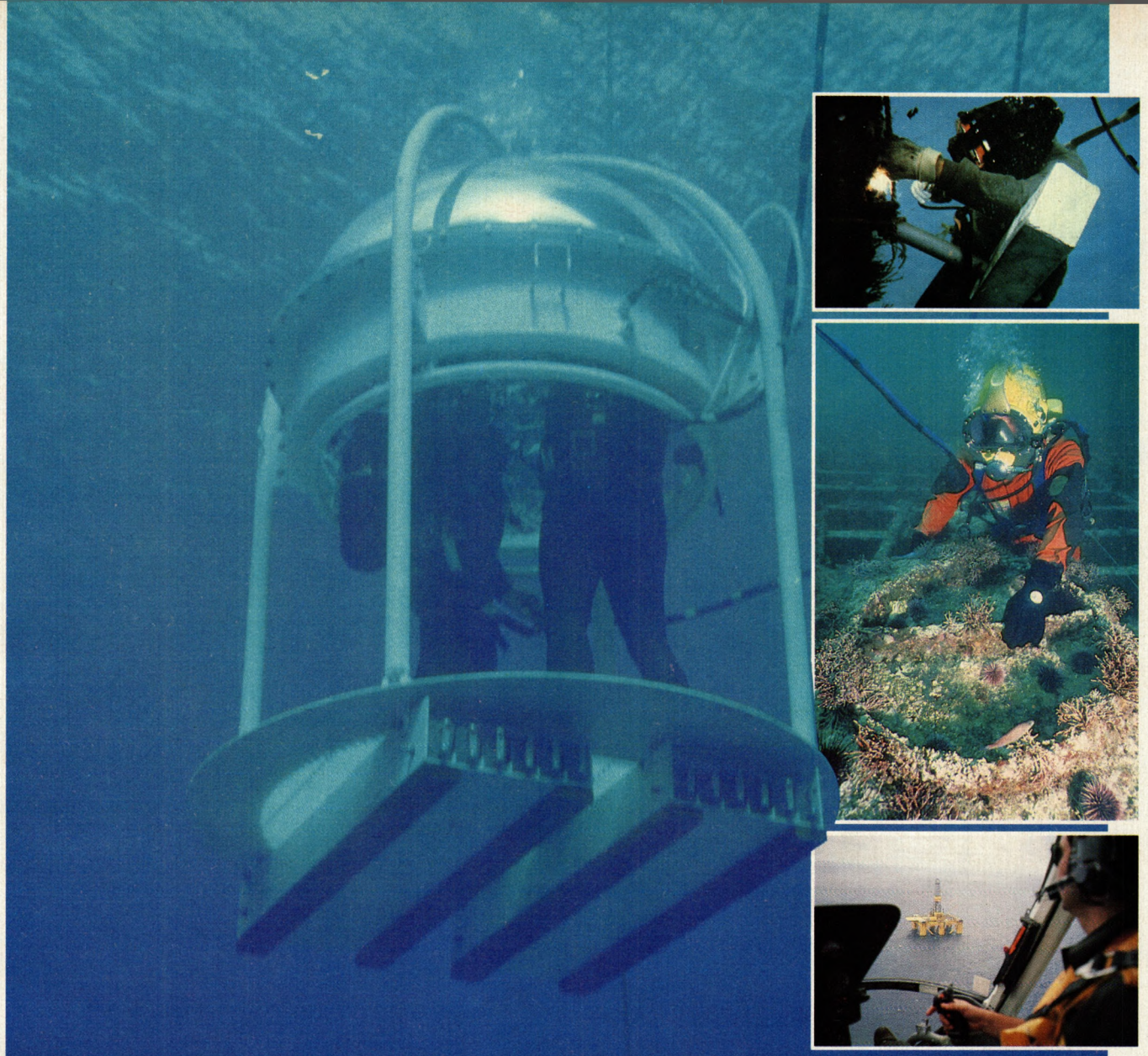
A 50 cent Canadian stamp was issued to commemorate the *Bluenose*, which won many deepsea fishing schooner races from 1921-1938. Schooner beer also honored her.

In 1954 a Canadian brewery commissioned an advertising agency where Ward worked to design a label for their lager beer. Ward toyed with a lot of names, but he couldn't find anything catchy. He was ready to chuck the whole project when he spotted the 50 cent Canadian issue of the *Bluenose* while sorting through a box of junk. The schooner touched off memories of his grandfather talking about drinking schooners of beer in the good old days. Thus Schooner Beer was born and praise was heaped upon Ward. The artist's rendition of the label won a top design award in 1956.

The brewery owners capitalized on the *Bluenose* as a further means of promoting their product by building a replica in 1963. Captain Walters died in 1968 at age 87, but lived long enough to sail aboard *Bluenose II*. The ship became a goodwill ambassador for Nova Scotia and hosted the Montreal Expo in 1967 when more than one million visitors toured her. Plans for a *Bluenose III* are in the making as memories and the legend live on—all because of a postage stamp and Allen Ward's ingenuity.

But that's not the end of the story. Canadian diver Dan Wellington thinks he has found the wreck of the *Bluenose* in shallow water off Haiti. He wants to raise the ship and return it to its home province as soon as he proves its authenticity. Wellington, an official with a Darthmouth, Nova Scotia marketing firm, says there are four other wrecks in the area and he has to measure the keel and check other

(Continued on Page 50)



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New PADI Dive Tables

INTRODUCING THE WHEEL DIVE CALCULATOR

BY KARL SHREEVES

If The Wheel® doesn't look like any dive tables you've used before, that's because it's not—and The Wheel's departure from the conventional tables doesn't end with appearance.

Based on a different tissue halftime than the U.S. Navy tables, and on brand new research, The Wheel differs in no-decompression limits, surface intervals and repetitive dive times. In fact, according to PADI and the Institute of Applied Physiology and Medicine (IAPM), The Wheel is the first dive table designed, researched and developed exclusively for planning recreational dives.

The Wheel offers significant advantages over conventional tables. It allows the planning of multilevel dives that extend bottom time as the diver moves to shallow depths. It also permits longer repetitive dives and/or shorter surface intervals than the navy tables. In addition, The Wheel is calibrated in five foot depth and one minute time increments to minimize unnecessary rounding off penalties.

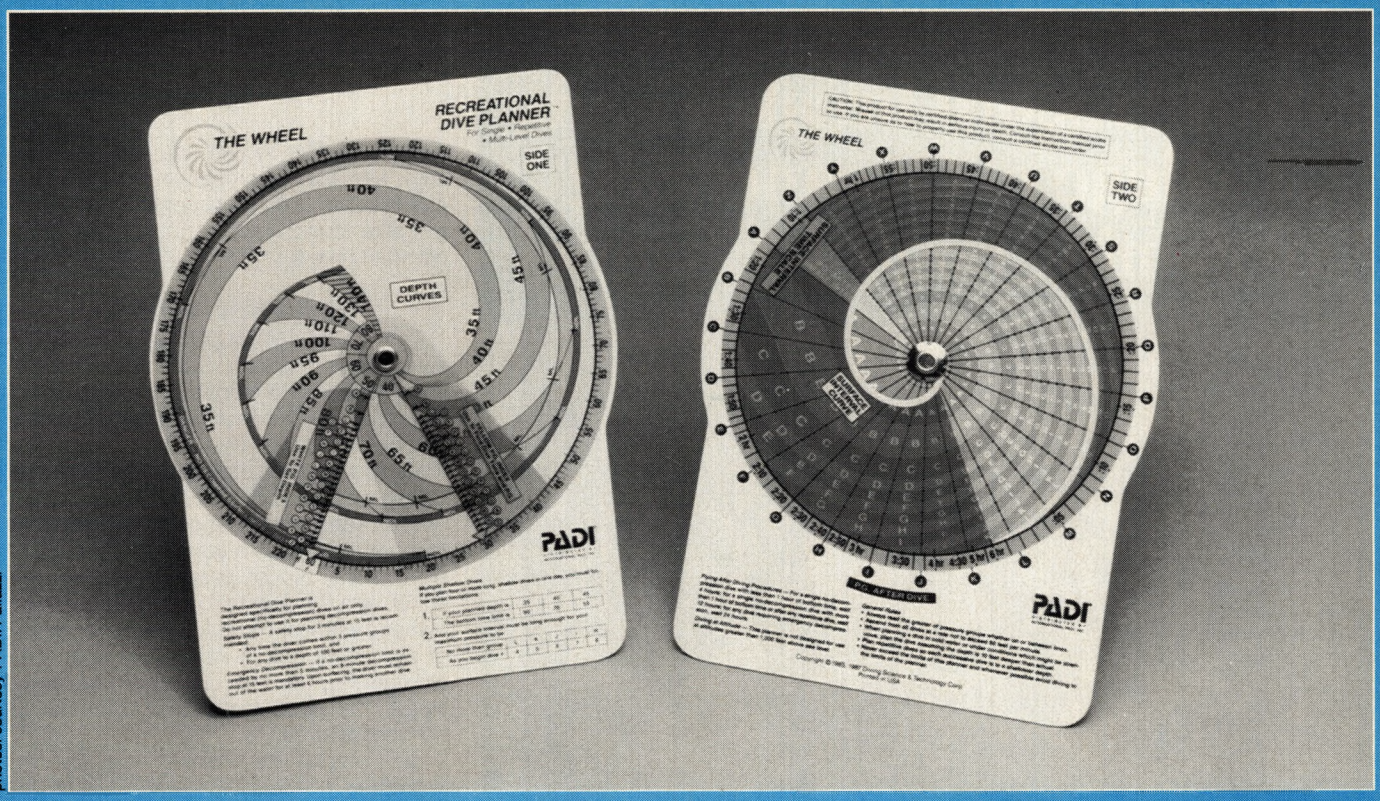
DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHEEL

The idea of the Wheel was conceived in 1984 when Dr. Raymond E. Rogers recognized the differences between recreational dive profiles and the military/commercial profiles for which the navy tables were designed. Dr. Rogers, along with many other hyperbaric experts and table designers, realized that new, specially designed recreational dive tables were needed for both multilevel capability and for additional conservatism.

Computer research led Dr. Rogers to conclude that a 60 minute halftime tissue more appropriately applies to recreational dives (as compared to the navy's 120 minute tissue) and that multilevel diving would be feasible with a new approach to table formats. His research developed into the revolutionary Wheel.

Working with Dr. Rogers, Diving Science & Technology (DSAT—a corporate affiliate of International PADI, Inc.), contracted Karl Huggins, a dive table engineer affiliated with the University of Michigan, to independently confirm Dr. Rogers' calculations, act as a consultant and review table data. Dr. Michael Powell, director of the Department of Hyperbaric Physiology at IAPM, was contracted to perform comprehensive testing on Dr. Rogers' concepts in the largest hyperbaric and open water test program ever conducted specifically for sport divers.

The protocols and procedures Dr. Powell used were reviewed and found appropriate by the Divers Alert Network (DAN). (DAN points out that this kind of research is both difficult and complex and that there is always some uncertainty as to what constitutes optimal testing. However, the research by Dr. Powell falls within reasonable testing parameters,



photos/courtesy PADI/Pallazzi

based on current knowledge.)

Dr. Powell's tests confirmed Dr. Rogers' choice of a 60 minute tissue for The Wheel: There were no incidents of decompression sickness. Fewer than seven percent of the profiles even produced nonsymptomatic silent bubbles; those that did produced the very low microscopic levels that are seldom associated with decompression sickness.

Testing was completed in October 1987; DSAT introduced The Wheel at the DEMA Show, January 28, 1988, with PADI as exclusive distributor.

MORE CONSERVATIVE NITROGEN LEVELS, LONGER BOTTOM TIMES

Not only does The Wheel use a faster tissue than the navy tables, but the maximum nitrogen level permitted in that tissue is more conservative. This means that a single depth no decompression limit is shorter on The Wheel than on the navy tables with an increased safety margin, but there is correspondingly a more generous repetitive dive time. The multilevel capability of The Wheel adds still more bottom time. (For a detailed com-

The Wheel differs from conventional dive tables in looks, limits and operation. It is designed exclusively for planning recreational dives. (At the time of printing, SDM had obtained a prototype Wheel. There may be changes in the final version.)

COMPARISON OF SINGLE DEPTH NO DECOMPRESSION LIMITS (MINUTES)

DEPTH	U.S. NAVY	PADI	ORCA*	UVATEC**	SUUNTO***
40 ft.	200	140	136	125	132
50 ft.	100	80	77	75	74
60 ft.	60	55	53	51	53
70 ft.	50	40	40	35	38
80 ft.	40	30	31	25	29
90 ft.	30	25	24	20	23
100 ft.	25	20	19	17	18
110 ft.	20	16	13	14	13
120 ft.	15	13	11	12	11
130 ft.	10	10	9	10	9

* Developer of the Edge and Skinny Dipper
** Developer of the Guide and Aladin
*** Developer of the SME-ML

MULTILEVEL DIVE COMPARISON NAVY TABLES/THE WHEEL

	Navy Tables	The Wheel
Level 1 Depth: 100 ft. Time Limit:	25 min.	20 min.
Time Spent:	15 min.	15 min.
Level 2 Depth: 60 ft. Time Limit:	10 min.	19 min.
Time Spent:	5 min.	15 min.
Level 3 Depth: 40 ft. Time Limit:	5 min.	54 min.
Time Spent:	5 min.	15 min. (limited by air supply)
Total Dive Time:	25 min.	45 min.

Note: Navy table time limits are based on the remaining 100 foot no decompression limit.

World record breaker finds College of Oceaneering swimming English Channel

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THE WHEEL

parison of The Wheel and the navy tables, see the accompanying chart.) The end result is The Wheel generally lets divers dive longer—with more conservative nitrogen levels.

USING THE WHEEL

The Wheel comes packaged in a versatile carrying case containing The Wheel itself, an owner's manual and waterproof Data Carrier. Measuring approximately 7¼ by 5 inches, The Wheel has been sized to fit in the pockets of current BCs.

Learning to use The Wheel is no more difficult (and most people find it easier) than learning to use conventional tables. After a couple of practice problems, either with the detailed instructions in the owner's manual or under the supervision of a certified scuba instructor, most divers find they can calculate their dive profiles as fast, if not faster, than when using conventional tables.

Side one of The Wheel is used for determining no-decompression limits on single and repetitive dives. It also provides limits for each level on a multilevel dive and the ending pressure group letter at the end of a dive.

Side one is set either by dialing the depth into a window or (on repetitive dives) a scale over the printed curve for the desired depth. The diver then swings a cursor over the curve to read the no decompression limits and get a pressure group letter after a dive. Because The Wheel is calibrated with five foot depth and one minute time increments, unnecessary rounding off is minimized.

When using The Wheel to calculate a repetitive dive for the first time, the diver may notice that residual nitrogen time seems to be missing. Actually, residual nitrogen time is there—it's just incorporated into The Wheel's design, making repetitive dive time limits adjust automatically. This eliminates the math necessary with conventional tables. Another difference is the number of repetitive groups: The Wheel lists 26 groups, A through Z, compared to the navy tables, which have 16 groups, A through O plus Z (O and Z appear primarily on decompression dives in the navy tables).

In planning multilevel dives, the diver uses the cursor and curves to determine the maximum allowable times for each depth. The diver records the planned times for each level on the waterproof Data Carrier to be taken for reference during the dive. Multilevel profiles move from deep to shallow, but not vice-versa.

Side two is used to determine surface interval credit. The diver locates the pressure group letter from the first dive at the edge of The Wheel, then dials in his/her surface interval. A new pressure group letter is read from a curve inside.

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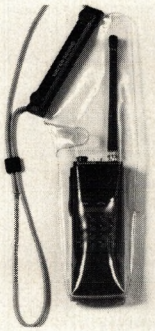

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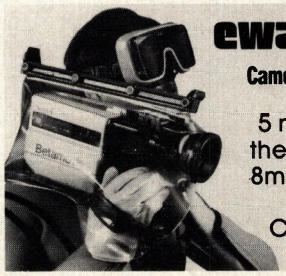

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The effects of The Wheel's 60 minute tissue basis become immediately apparent on side two. Instead of surface intervals from 10 minutes to 12 hours, as on conventional tables, The Wheel's surface intervals range from 1 minute to 6 hours. After some dives, a 10 minute surface interval can cause a change of three pressure groups! Also, after a surface interval of 6 hours, the diver is considered clear of nitrogen, and the next dive isn't considered repetitive, thanks to faster nitrogen elimination based on the 60 minute tissue parameter.

SINGLE DEPTH, REPETITIVE DIVE TIME COMPARISON

Note: Bottom times chosen for this example were selected to be within the limits of both tables. The ten foot depths common to both tables were used for direct comparison.

	Navy Limit	The Wheel Limit
Dive 1 Depth 90 feet	30 min.	25 min.
Actual Bottom Time: 25 min. Surface interval: 30 min.		
Dive 2 Depth 60 feet	16 min.	26 min.
Actual Bottom Time: 16 min. Surface interval: 30 min.		
Dive 3 Depth 50 feet	13 min.	42 min.
Total Time Available	59 min.	93 min.

DIVING THE WHEEL

PADI emphasizes that The Wheel was designed for planning, including multilevel dives. This sets The Wheel apart from diving computers, in that exactly how much time will be available at each depth level throughout the dive can be determined. Before a dive, most computers can tell the user how much time is available at a specific depth, but they cannot tell, for example, the maximum allowable time at 60 feet after 15 minutes at 95. Although all dives should be preplanned, PADI recommends that divers carry The Wheel and the Data Carrier while diving, in case a deviation from the plan requires recalculation to prevent accidentally ex-

(Continued on Page 37)

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Diver's Calendar

CATALINA ISLAND PHOTO COMPETITION

The second annual Catalina Island Underwater Photo Competition will be held **February 5-7** on Catalina Island, California. The event includes a seminar, cocktail party, deluxe brunch, film, awards and prizes.

For information call Bud or Nanci Davis (213) 510-1811 or write Blue Dolphin House, P.O. Box 2605, Avalon, CA 90704.

DIVERS CONVENTION

The annual Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers Convention will be hosted by the Kittyhawk Scuba Club of Dayton **February 5-7** at the Radisson Inn of Dayton.

For more information contact James L. Main, 246 Upper Hillside Drive, Bellbrook, Ohio 45305.

OCEAN EXPO '88

Ocean Expo Productions, Inc. will host Ocean Expo '88, a scuba diving and ocean sports show, **February 19-21** at the Coconut Grove Exhibition Center, North Miami, Florida.

For information contact Ocean Expo Productions, 1141 NE 142nd St., North Miami, FL 33161; (305) 891-6095/891-6581.

ST. PETERSBURG SHELL SHOW

The St. Petersburg Shell Club, Inc. will host its 41st annual Shell Show at the Community Center, 1 Park Place and 106th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida **February 26-28**. Shell collections will be displayed and there will be shells and shell related items for sale.

For information contact the St. Petersburg Shell Club, c/o Betty Lipe, 440 75th Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33706; (813) 360-0586.

SEAS '88

Dr. Eugenie Clark will headline the Southeast Atlantic States scuba conference and film festival at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina **February 26-29**. There will be workshops, seminars, a photo contest and Carolina Pig Pickin'.

For information contact Seas, P.O. Box 31186, Raleigh, NC 27622; (919) 781-0559.

UNDERWATER '88

The Channel Islands Underwater Photographic Society will present Underwater '88, an underwater film show featuring Jean-Michel Cousteau and Jack McKenney, **February 27** at the Port Hueneme Cultural Center, 575 Surfside Drive, Port Hueneme, California. Admission is $10.

For information contact CIUPS, P.O. Box 6901, Oxnard, CA 93031.

BOSTON DIVING SHOW

Bill Lovin will headline this year's Boston Diving Show **February 27** at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts. In addition to the film show, there will be seminars and workshops.

For information contact Fred Calhoun, P.O. Box 291, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

OFFICE BASED SPORTS MEDICINE

The fifth annual Office Based Sports Medicine program, a postgraduate extension course in medical education, will be held **February 27-March 5** in Snowbird, Utah. The course is approved for ACCME, AMA and CMA credit.

For information contact the University of California, Extended Programs in Medical Education, Room 569-U, San Francisco, CA 94143-0766; (415) 476-4251.

SOUTHWEST SCUBA DIVING EXHIBITION

Underwater Adventures will present a scuba diving exposition **March 5-6** at the Market Hall in Dallas, Texas. There will be aquarium displays; seminars; demonstrations; mini courses in CPR, ecology, underwater rescue and recovery, U/W photography and video.

For information contact Underwater Adventures, P.O. Box 28883, Dallas, Texas 75228; (214) 270-7070.

SEAVIEWS '88

Seaviews '88, a scuba diving symposium, will be held **March 11-13** at the Oakland Hyatt Convention Center in Oakland, California. There will be exhibits and seminars on such topics as underwater photography, travel, medicine, underwater hockey, equipment maintenance and wreck diving. There will be film festivals Friday and Saturday night.

For more information contact Seaviews '88, 16158 Yale Avenue, San Lorenzo, CA 94580; (415) 278-6119.

UNDERWATER OLYMPICS

The third annual Underwater Olympics (a fundraising event for the Divers Alert Network) will be held at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, in Farmington, Michigan **March 13**.

For information contact Albert Campbell at (313) 986-0261 or, after 6:00 pm, (313) 861-6323.

BENEATH THE SEA

Beneath the Sea, the 12th annual New York Oceans Exposition and International Underwater Film Festival, will take place **March 25-27** at the Westchester County Convention Center in White Plains, New York. There will be exhibits, seminars, workshops, banquets, award presentations and parties.

For information contact BTS, P.O. Box 644, Rye, NY 10580; (914) 961-2088.

CHOCOLATE ABALONE DIVE

The fourth annual Chocolate Abalone Dive will be held **March 26** at San Carlos Beach in Monterey, California (at the Coast Guard breakwater). A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Pacific Grove Recompression Chamber. Divers search for chocolate abalone underwater. Numbers with each abalone correspond to prizes waiting on shore.

For information contact Aquarius Dive shop, 2240 Del Monte Avenue, Monterey, CA 93940; (408) 375-1933.

skin diver

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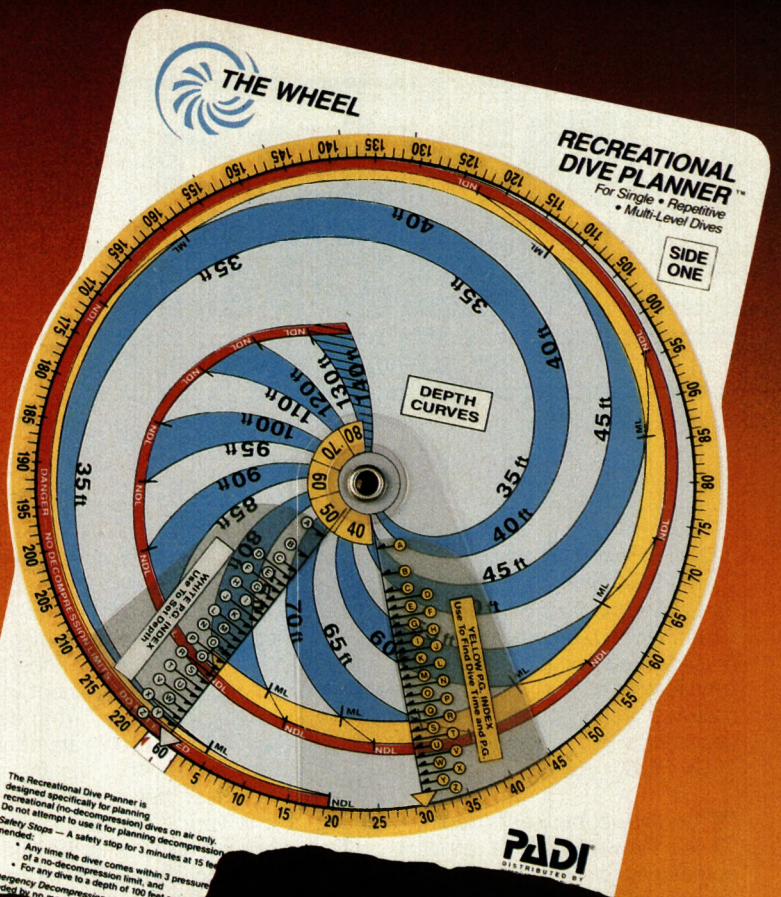

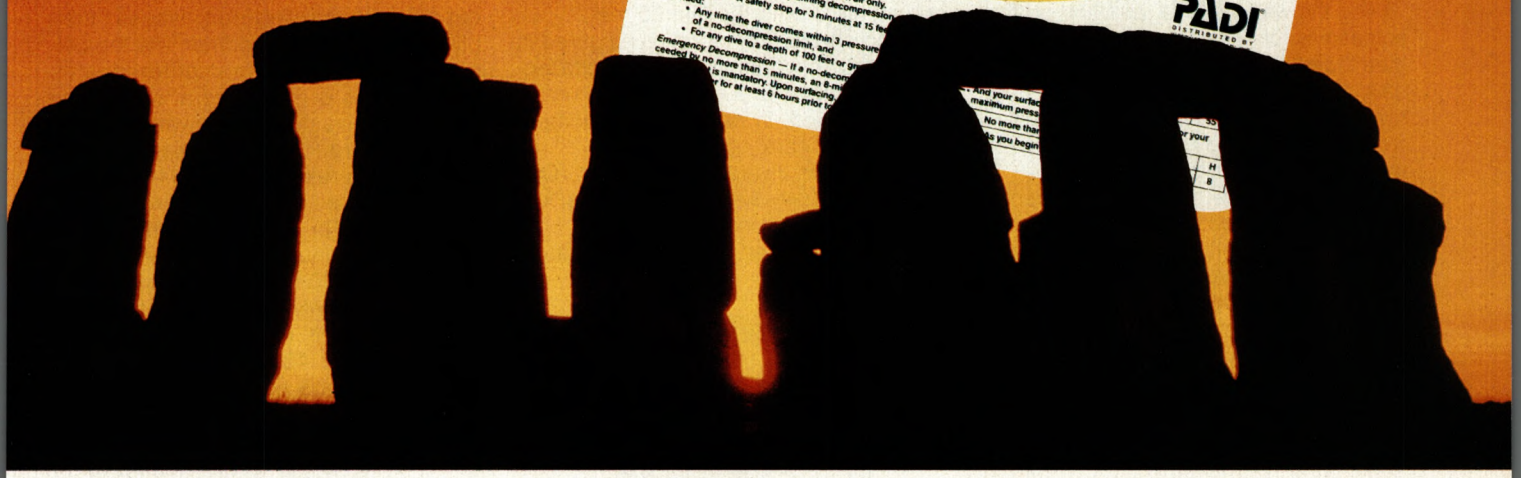

The Wheel™ is a revolutionary new dive planner — the first designed and tested *specifically* for recreational divers.

• Multilevel dives • Longer repetitive dives • Shorter surface intervals • Greater precision

Plan your dive the way you dive it. If you don't stay at one depth, you shouldn't have to limit your dive time as though you do. The Wheel lets you plan **multilevel** profiles that give you more bottom time — often greater than 50% more.

Less time above, more time below. With conventional tables, you spend too much time waiting between dives, and too little time on your repetitive dives. The Wheel puts you back in the water sooner — and lets you stay longer.

Precision planning. Five-foot depth increments and one-minute time increments permit a precision previously possible only with dive computers. The Wheel departs from conventional table formats, minimizing unnecessary rounding.

Easy to use. If you can spin a disk and point an arrow, you can use The Wheel. No math. No RNT. The Wheel makes planning your dives faster and easier than ever.

Innovative thinking and sound science. The Wheel is the result of three years research by leading hyperbaric researchers and dive table engineers, plus the most extensive recreational dive test program ever conducted. The Wheel gives you more bottom time *while actually maintaining more conservative body nitrogen levels than conventional tables.* The Wheel is a superior application of proven hyperbaric science.

Get The Wheel from your local PADI Training Facility. Or write PADI for a free Training Facility List: PADI, Box 25011, Santa Ana, CA 92799-5011.

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The new age in dive planning has dawned. It's about time.

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Diving Medicine

BY ALFRED A. BOVE, M.D., PH.D.

Decompression Computers

This month's article is written by Craig Barshinger, who originated the concept and developed the Edge decompression computer. In March of this year, we briefly discussed some experiences of diving physicians with the Edge. Barshinger provides some futher details and concepts about this device....Fred Bove, M.D., Ph.D.

The dive computer is radically changing the way we dive, allowing profiles sometimes longer and sometimes shorter than those permitted by the U.S. Navy tables. Here is a discussion about the Edge dive computer, looking at how and why it works and at the experience of one-half million open water dives.

The Edge is an instrument I invented and developed with Karl Huggins and James Fulton, both dedicated sport divers. It was originally conceived to meet the needs of guides in the Virgin Islands, who do many repetitive dives to varying depths, day after day. The Edge is manufactured by Orca Industries, a company we started from scratch in order to bring the same abilities to all divers. So far there are 6,000+ Edges in the field, with more than 500,000 dives logged. Since it calculates tissue nitrogen levels continuously, divers using this computer can determine decompression from the actual dive profile and are not forced to use maximum depth and total bottom time.

There have been 14 cases of bends reported while *properly* using the Edge. (Cases are tracked through DAN and direct contact with Orca). This represents a 0.028 percent bends rate. While this number is small, it is nevertheless interesting to look at the possible causes of these 14 cases. [The U.S. Navy bends rate is less than this at .009 percent for no decompression dives, and comparable at .038 percent for decompression dives—F.B.].

The factors we considered in analyzing the cases were 1) Use of staged decompression, 2) Cold, 3) Exertion, 4) Age, 5) Being close to no-decompression limits, 6) Being female, 7) Fast ascent rate, 8) Dehydration, 9) Use of a decongestant, 10) Obesity.

Staged decompression and hard exertion both figured in five cases. Clearly, it is wise to avoid both in our diving practices whenever possible.

There was much uncertainty in reports of ascent rates. Except in one case of a drysuit "blow-up" from depth, it was not clear how ascent rate affected the bends incidence. Most victims were not sure how fast they ascended. (With the Edge it is very important to ascend at 20 fsw per minute during the last 60 feet).

Being chilled during the dive figured in one case. Dehydration was a definite factor in two cases and may have occurred, undocumented, in others where competent medical care was not sought.

Four of the divers were women. One was not actually wearing the Edge, but accompanied someone who was.

Being more than 55 years of age or obese did not figure prominently; there was only one occurrence of each.

The Edge dive computer. Dive computers are radically changing the way we dive.

Surprisingly, in at least two cases decongestants were being used and there seemed to be no other predisposing causes. Could it be that decongestants alter nitrogen uptake and release? Perhaps we should look at the effects of local decongestants such as Afrin as opposed to systemic decongestants such as Sudafed. [There is no evidence for this effect from decongestants—F.B.]

Being close to the no decompression limit did not figure prominently, but it appears that being close just prior to beginning a direct ascent to the surface could be problematic. Along with that, square dive profiles calculated with the Edge appear more dangerous than multilevel dives where a gradual ascent was made during the dive.

The safety record is excellent and, for multilevel diving, Edge dive times are greatly extended over navy table times. Let's review how this is accomplished.

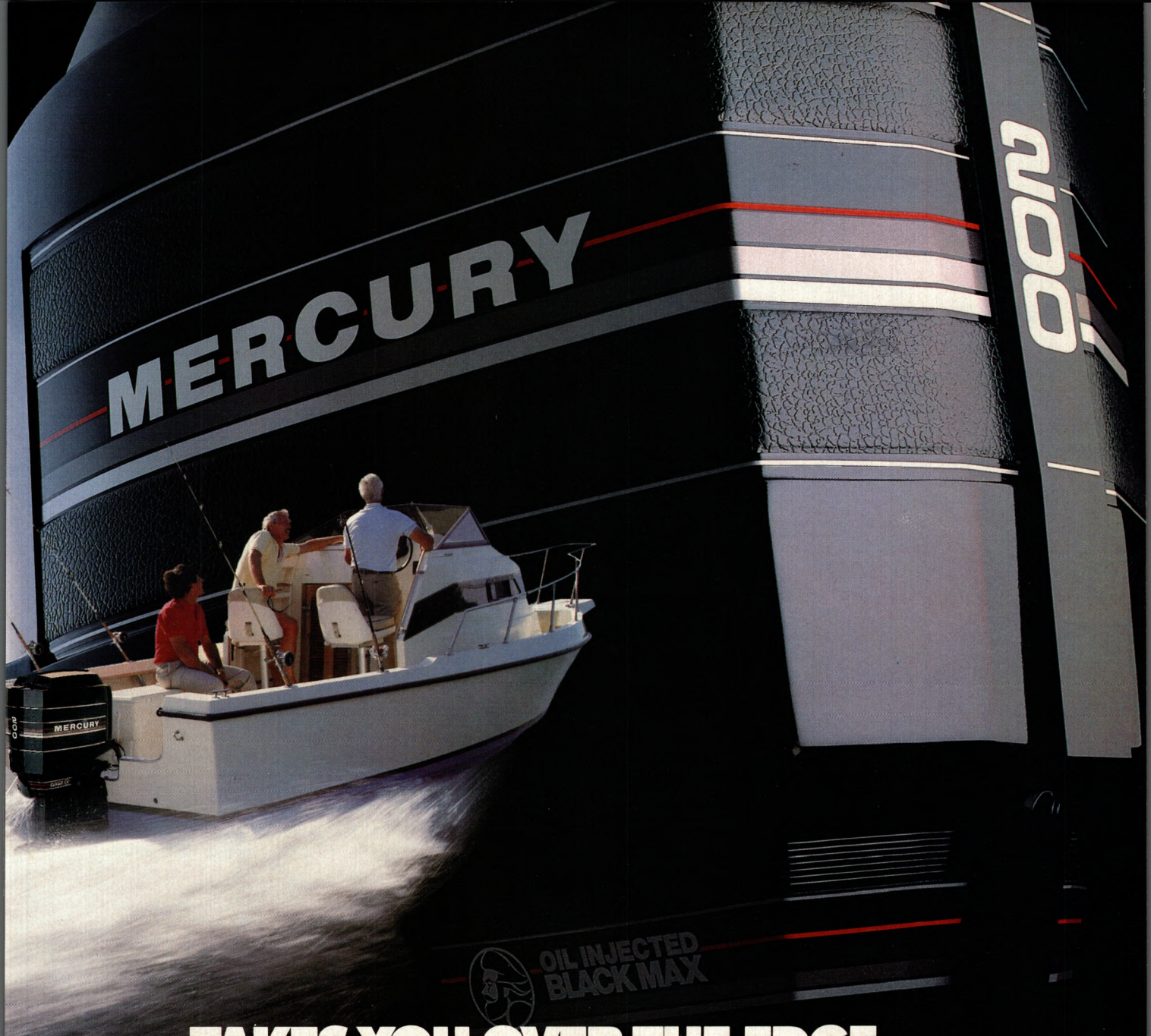
HOW AND WHY IT WORKS

The Edge is an electronic computer that measures depth and time every three seconds and calculates the amount of nitrogen that has been picked up (or lost) from the body's tissues. This is shown graphically on a liquid crystal display along with the permitted limit for each tissue. There are 12 tissues shown, with the fastest being at the left and the slowest at the right. For example, lung tissue is a fast tissue, muscle and viscera are intermediate tissues, and fat and bone are slow tissues. There are actually no clear-cut distinctions between tissues; they blend together in a spectrum like the colors in a rainbow. What differentiates these tissues is the speed at which they take on or give off nitrogen when the applied pressure (i.e. depth) changes. This speed is expressed as a half-time. The Edge calculates theoretical nitrogen partial pressure in tissues with half-times from 5-480 minutes. This means that if you were at 100 feet, it would take the 5 minute tissue only 5 minutes to reach 50 feet equivalent nitrogen pressure. It would take the 480 minute tissue a full 480 minutes, or 8 hours, to reach 50 feet of nitrogen pressure. Each tissue is constantly in motion, moving either up or down, trying to get to the exact level of the Depth Bar. They move independently at their own rate. While this is only a simulation of what is happening in the body, it produces long but safe dive profiles, which is what we are striving for.

You are in a no decompression status as long as the nitrogen pressure for all tissues is above (shallower than) the Limit Line. If any bar gets too close, you can actually pull it away by ascending! The Depth Bar positioned shallower than the offending Tissue Bar will "tug" it away, giving more dive time.

While it is advantageous to be able to visualize and control nitrogen levels, it is equally important to know your Remaining No Decompression Time (RNDT) at any point in the dive. This is simply the amount of time until any tissue partial pressure crosses the limit line displayed by the Edge. The RNDT is continuously recalculated and displayed on the bottom line, with a "+" sign showing you still have remaining time (a "—" sign indi-

(Continued on Page 54)



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THE GOURMET DIVER

OYSTERS

photo/Bonnie J. Cardone

BY MARK STEPHEN BETZ

The oceans of Mother Earth teem with an amazing abundance of seafood, pursued by an equally amazing variety of dedicated, well equipped sport divers. But, one of the sea's most appetizing delicacies needs little pursuit and almost nothing in the way of specialized equipment for its harvest. Scattered throughout the shallow, inshore waters of every continent, the common, edible oyster offers the enthusiast a delicious, high protein, low calorie dining experience that may be relished all the more for the ease with which this shellfish may be obtained.

Occupying a vast habitat, oysters may be found just about anywhere between the latitudes 64 degrees north and 44 degrees south, and in such variety that for years they defied classification by marine biologists. In this country the two species that are most common are *Crassostrea virginica*, the Atlantic blue point oyster, and *Ostrea lurida*, the somewhat smaller Olympia oyster of the West Coast. The blue point occurs naturally from Maine to Florida and in some places is yet so abundant that the shellfish often lie exposed at low tide.

The sport diver seeking to take home a bushel of blue points for dinner need only have a strong sack—a nylon mesh bag of the type commonly used for collecting will do nicely—and some sort of hammer for knocking off those shellfish that have grown attached to submerged rocks or pilings. The preferred tool is known as a "culling" hammer, so called because it is used by commercial harvesters to separate oysters from rocks and each other. It has a nub welded to the haft that can be used to measure your catch against the "cull laws" (or size limits) of your state.

Like all seafood subject to large scale commercial harvest, rules and regulations concerning the taking of oysters abound, and it is important to comply with the specific laws in your area. Most states permit an unlicensed individual to harvest a small amount, often one bushel per day, for household use. But these limits, as well as limits on size and the area of harvest, vary greatly. It is wise to contact the department that oversees marine resources in your state in order to check the rules.

Once preparations are complete, the rest of the hunt is a simple matter. Oysters often occur in large communities known as "bars" and, once again, the department of marine resources in your area can be of great help in pointing out a productive location. But, bars are by no means the only source of these prolific shellfish. They can be found in just about any coastal bay, river or inlet, resting flat on the bottom, clinging to rocks, pilings and even manmade objects such as old tires or boots; anything that provides a surface on which the young oysters, known as spat, can settle. Be careful when working a soft bottom not to disturb

(Continued on Page 56)

OYSTERS PARMESAN

3 dozen oysters
¼ lb. Prosciutto
2 T champagne or white wine
8 T butter
3 chives, chopped
3 T Parmesan cheese, grated

Bake oysters at 350°F until open. Remove top part of shell. Place small piece of prosciutto under each oyster. Lower the oven to 200°F and bake until the prosciutto is warm. Pour wine into a saucepan and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Whisk butter into wine one tablespoon at a time, returning the mixture to the heat as necessary to maintain texture. Add chives and pour over oysters. Garnish each with Parmesan cheese and serve.

MARYLAND OYSTER PIE

1 pint oysters, shucked
½ C celery, diced
½ C green pepper, diced
4 T butter
5 T flour
2 C milk
2 potatoes, diced and cooked
Salt and pepper, to taste
Pastry

Cook oysters in their own liquid until the edges begin to curl, then drain. Cook celery and green pepper in butter until tender. Blend in flour. Add milk and cook until thick, stirring constantly. Add cooked, diced potatoes, oysters and seasonings and heat. Pour in casserole and top with pastry. Bake in 425°F oven about 15 minutes or until crust is brown.

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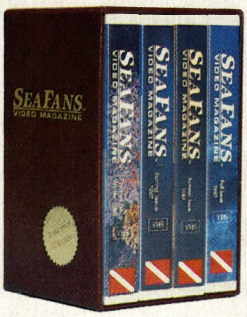

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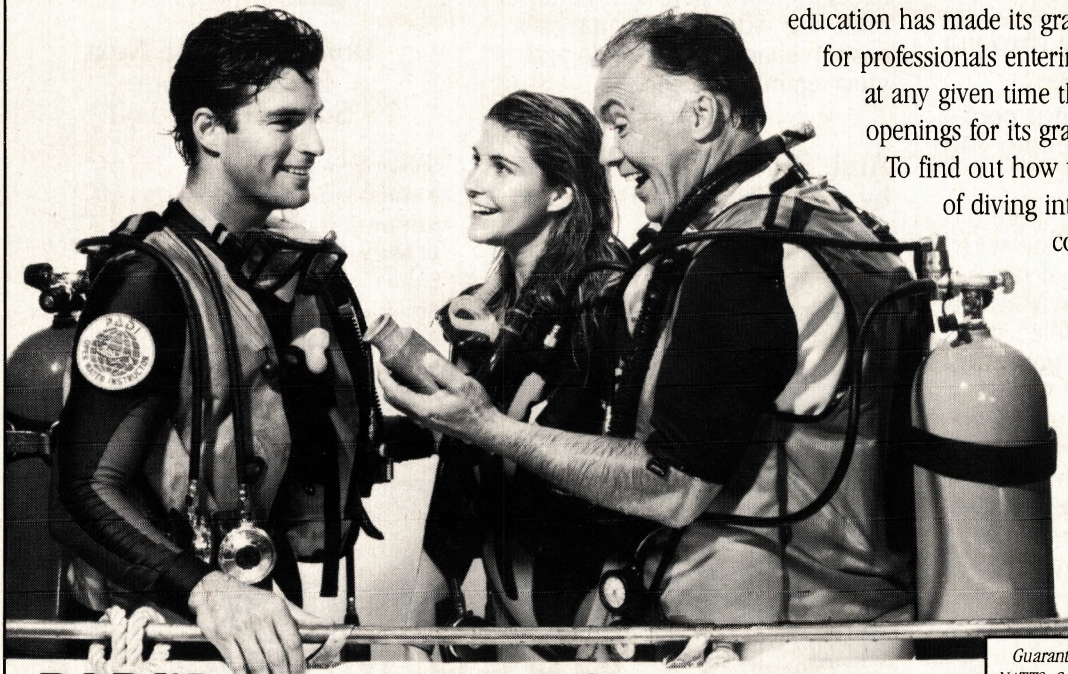

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THE WHEEL

(Continued from Page 29)

ceeding no decompression limits.

Most standard rules and recommendations regarding rates of ascent, making deep dives first and safety stops are the same when diving with The Wheel. The recommended three minute safety stop does not have to be added to the bottom time, however.

Emergency decompression is quite different from the navy tables and much simpler. If a no decompression limit is exceeded, in all cases the diver makes an 8 minute stop at 15 feet. Following a dive requiring decompression, the diver must wait six hours before diving again.

MINIMUM SURFACE INTERVAL COMPARISONS

	Navy Tables	The Wheel
Dive One: 100 feet, 20 minutes		
Minimum surface interval for Dive Two:	46 min.	29 min.
Dive Two: 60 feet, 30 minutes		
Minimum surface interval for Dive Three:	141 min.	57 min.
Dive Three: 60 feet, 30 minutes		
Total surface time:	189 min. (3 hours, 9 min.)	86 min. (1 hour, 26 min.)

CONCLUSIONS

The Wheel offers divers a way to safely increase their bottom time through multilevel profiles and more generous repetitive dives, while maintaining conservative body nitrogen levels and reducing surface intervals.

The Wheel is not quite as versatile as a dive computer. A computer permits the diver to ascend and descend at will while multilevel diving; The Wheel does not permit a diver to descend to a deeper depth after ascending to a shallower depth, but it does permit the diver to preplan the time limits for each level before the dive. Also, The Wheel, of course, doesn't require battery changes. (For divers using dive computers, The Wheel

(Continued on Page 46)

If you're a Jack Daniel's drinker, let us hear from you.

AT JACK DANIEL'S DISTILLERY it never snows too much. But when it does, it really does.

One of our rickers (it's Lawrence Burns) is surveying the situation. You see, it's his job to gather these hard maple logs; stack them in ricks; and burn them to the charcoal we use to mellow our whiskey. "Charcoal mellowing" (as this process is called) is more important than anything to the taste of Jack Daniel's. So, we assure you, Mr. Burns won't let a little snow get in the way of his work.

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SDM'S

U/W Video Course

THE VIDEOCAMERA AS A DIVE BUDDY

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY JIM AND CATHY CHURCH

Since your diving buddy purchased that U/W video camera, he has been a pain. You can no longer enjoy your dive because he has bombarded you with directions on what to do and how to pose, and has told you repeatedly not to look at the camera. And, if you can't look at him (because his eye is usually close to the viewfinder), how can you dive as a safe buddy team? If you've had these problems—and would like to throttle your U/W videographer dive buddy—this lesson is for both of you.

BUDDY WITH THE CAMERA

Pretend that the U/W video camera is your dive buddy. Look at the camera and make gestures to it as if it were a person. This novel approach may sound crazy, but it could save a diving relationship.

Look at the video camera anytime you would normally look at your dive buddy. Remember: The camera *is* your dive buddy! Use the same gestures and body language you would use with another diver.

We discovered this approach out of necessity: A small tugboat, the *Anna Marie*, had sunk near George Town Harbour, Grand Cayman and we knew the *Atlantis* submarine cruised by the tug twice each afternoon. Jim planned to shoot an U/W sequence showing two divers exploring the sunken tug and their surprised reaction to the passing submarine. All our plans were made; but just before the shoot, one of Jim's models had to leave the island. As we had already arranged for a boat and time was getting short, we decided Cathy would "buddy" with Jim's camera. To make sure we both understood the plan, we made a simple shooting script (a list of shots) on a dive slate.

THE OPENING SCENE

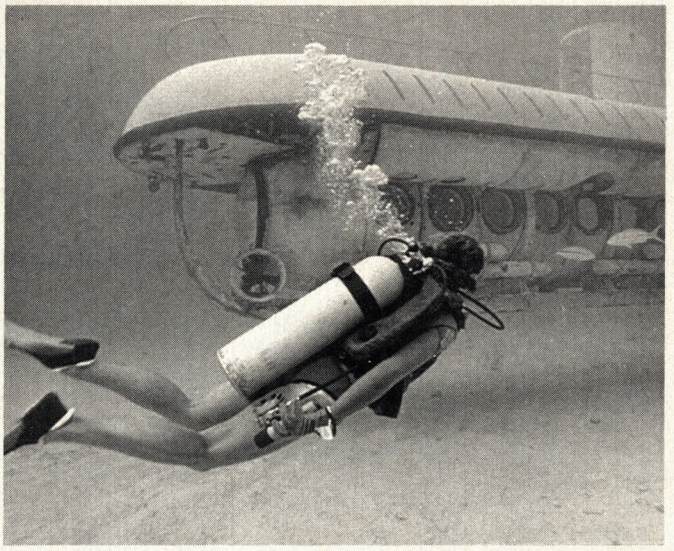
Because we wanted to concentrate on the U/W action, we bypassed the topside scenes and began with an U/W scene showing Cathy swimming toward the sunken tug. Jim had Cathy approach from the right side of the frame because the larger subject (the tug) on the left

Video camera as dive buddy: The opening scene shows Cathy swimming toward the tug.

This shot shows Cathy entering the tug (taken from outside) to set up following action.

In the next shot (taken from inside the cabin) Cathy discovers the ship's "silver."

In this shot (taken from inside the cabin) Cathy exits the tug.



Outside the tug, the big excitement occurs: The sub passes by.

gave the viewer left-to-right eye travel—from the tug to the approaching diver.

Swimming in as smoothly as he could, Jim moved from a long distance shot to a medium distance shot. Cathy approached the port side door to the wheelhouse, stopped and turned to her buddy (the camera) and beckoned it to join her. Then, turning away from her buddy, she entered the wheelhouse.

BUILDING THE STORY

Now that the basic location and the two divers were established, we wanted to create some action. Simply swimming around a small, desolate tug wouldn't hold a viewer's interest very long.

After entering the wheelhouse, Cathy looked directly at her buddy through a large window and, with a movement of her head, signaled "come on in." At this point Jim changed camera angle to show a view of Cathy through the open doorway. Cathy looked around inside the wheelhouse and made an exciting discovery, which she held up for her buddy to see. Moving in for a close-up shot of Cathy's find, her buddy saw that she was holding the ship's "silver." Actually, we created this episode by writing the tug's name, *Anna Marie*, on plastic utensils.

To resolve finding the ship's silver in the wheelhouse, and to get on with the video story, Jim shot a medium distance shot of Cathy swimming out of the starboard wheelhouse door. Then, moving around to the starboard bow, he shot an overlap of Cathy exiting the wheelhouse.

THE MAIN ACTION

Up to now, all of the scenes were just buildup to the main action—we didn't want to jump into our main action too quickly. It's the same as relaxing with appetizers, soup and salad before enjoying the main course of a fine meal.

We knew the submarine would pass by so its passengers could view the sunken tug. And, our main action would be for Cathy to look up and discover the large submarine gliding by. Jim started with a long distance shot of Cathy swimming around the stern and port side of the tug; then she turned excitedly to look back at her buddy as she pointed at the submarine. She then swam clear of the tug and approached the sub, again glancing back at her buddy and pointing to the submarine. As the sub turned so its starboard side passengers could view the tug, Cathy concentrated on looking at the passengers through the sub's portholes. One small boy made the V sign with two fingers and Cathy made his day by returning the gesture.

To end the story, Cathy gives her buddy the thumbs up signal for a mutual ascent.

OUR SHOOTING SCRIPT

LS: Cathy approaches the tugboat.
MS: Cathy approaches wheelhouse—beckons buddy to approach.
MS: Cathy enters the tug's port wheelhouse door.
MS: View of Cathy through wheelhouse window.
MS: View of Cathy looking around, finding ship's silver.
CU: Cathy's hand holding ship's silver.
MS: Cathy swims out starboard door.
LS: Overlap of Cathy swimming out door and back to stern.
LS: Cathy sights submarine—looks at buddy, points to sub.
LS: Cathy watches the submarine leave the scene.
CU: Cathy shows dive buddy her depth gauge.
MS: Cathy signals to her buddy, "let's return to the surface."
LS: Cathy swims up anchorline.
LS: Cathy looks down at buddy, gives OK signal.

ENDING THE STORY

We didn't want to end the story with the sub simply gliding off into the distant blue. Rather, we wanted the ending to be more personal for the viewer.

(Continued on Page 51)

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M/S Aquanaut

HOLIDAY

Deluxe Dive Ship in the Dutch A, B, C Islands

Text by Barbara Currie

It was mid-December and my holiday musings were about diving. What surprises would 1988 reveal for divers ready for something truly different?

I had just returned from another week on the M/S AQUANAUT EXPLORER in the B.V.I. when a phone call from Capt. Gerry Hytha, Fleet Captain of Aquanaut Cruise Line Ltd., answered that question.

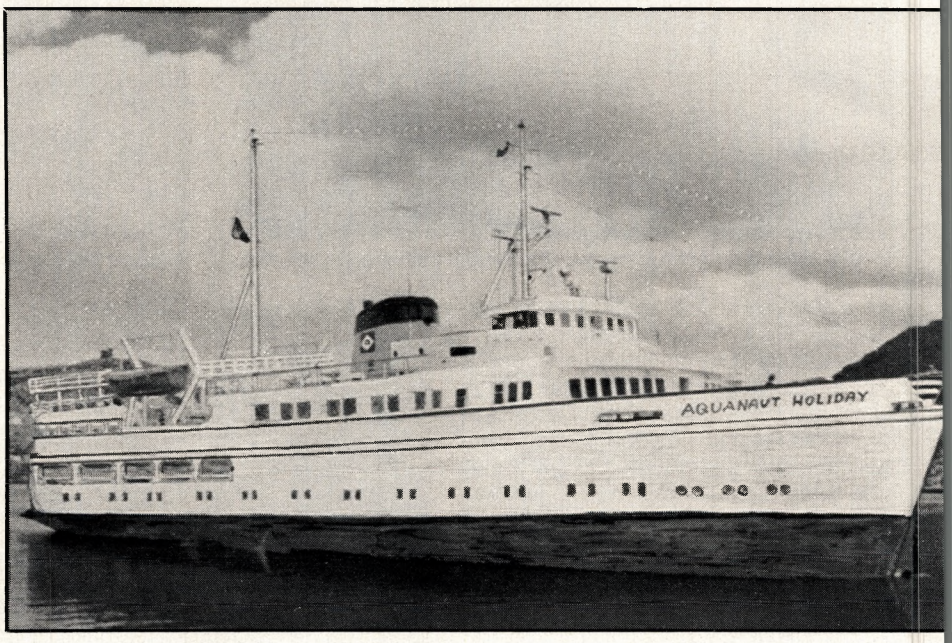
I was invited to meet him and Captain Erich Heindl in Miami for a sneak preview of their new 200′ specialty cruise ship. I expected to be looking at blueprints. Imagine my surprise when I saw the ship coming through Government Cut in Miami. Capt. Hytha had brought the ship from Labrador for renovation and outfitting in preparation for a new Caribbean dive-cruise route.

A few months before, I had seen the artist's rendering of the M/S AQUANAUT HOLIDAY, and heard about Aquanaut's plans to expand the fleet. Like many seasoned divers, I believe elaborate plans only when I see them. Now, here was that ship, much more than just a drawing, with its impressive 200′ length and 40′ beam.

After the success of their first ship during only a year of operation, Captains Hytha and Heindl recognized the tremendous market for Aquanaut's unique combination of cruise-ship comfort, generous amenities and easy but exciting diving in remote locations. They needed another ship. The next surprise was the news that the HOLIDAY would offer 7-day dive cruises in the Dutch islands of Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire, known for some of the best diving in the Caribbean. The ship would visit remote reefs and tiny islands and cays seldom explored in those waters.

I looked over the blueprints for the finished ship, a Panama-registered vessel—it's going to be a classy ship, with an impressive variety of services and attractions for divers and non-divers alike.

Only 80 passengers will be able to enjoy each cruise, attended by a crew of 36. The ship's 40 spacious staterooms, all outside cabins with picture windows, will have private bathrooms with freshwater showers; telephone and TV; bright tropical decor and twin or queen-size beds—double occupancy only! Deluxe cabins will also have private balconies, an exclusive Aquanaut feature. All rooms are air-conditioned and will have meticulous steward service, another Aquanaut trademark.



For divers, this will be the ultimate "live-aboard" ship, carrying motor-powered dive boats; a complete dive shop with tanks, compressors and rental gear; photo lab with E-6 processing and rental cameras. Like the EXPLORER, the ship will anchor away from fragile reefs and dive sites. Dive boats will be lowered by ramp into the water, divers will step on board and be quickly transported to dive sites. Full certification and resort scuba courses will be available for those who want to learn the sport.

The M/S AQUANAUT HOLIDAY will launch an unprecedented concept in Caribbean scuba vacations. This incredibly spacious ship has a fuel storage tank that will allow it to cruise distances impossible for smaller live-aboards, and Capt. Hytha suggested other exotic destinations would be possible in the future. This ship also has state of the art communications on board; weather-FAX system and satellite telephone. The ship's water-making unit will provide plenty of fresh water—a luxury on most live-aboards!

That's only part of this ship's attractions.

Aprés-dive activities include relaxing on spacious sun decks; enjoying drinks at the deck bar; dining on excellent fare in two restaurants, one outside and one inside, served by waiters on nicely-set tables. And later: Aquanaut-style cruise ship nightlife. Live music, a ship's casino, floor shows and a discotheque are part of the HOLIDAY cruise.

Non-divers will be able to snorkel, windsurf, waterski and enjoy shore excursions to the three beautiful Dutch islands known for their fine beaches, excellent shopping and fascinating sightseeing, as well as their dramatic diving. This will be a perfect vacation for those who want to learn to dive during the week.

"We want to give our customers a ship no diver ever dreamed would exist, especially not for such an affordable price, in a location where multi-island diving is a new concept. And we'll offer privacy and pampering, with plenty of exciting diving," said Capt. Hytha.

The maiden voyage is planned for early June. I've marked it on my 1988 calendar and can't wait!

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Technifacts

BY E.R. CROSS

One of the principal objectives of Technifacts is to present information pertaining to new or improved equipment, material or techniques that may be of use to divers and others involved in marine environmental disciplines. The efforts of scientists and sport divers to learn what lies at the bottom of earthly waters have been frustratingly slow and often incomplete. Unless very shallow and clear, the surface of the water is an opaque window, hiding resources and treasures from view. This Technifacts reviews how that window has been opened.

Less than a century ago an oceanogapher, navigator or diver who wanted to find the depth of water lowered a lead weighted sounding line to the bottom and read the depth off the marked line. This was sometimes accurate to within ten percent. If the type of bottom was of interest, the sounding lead was "armed" by hollowing out the bottom and filling the hole with tallow. Some of the bottom material became embedded in this substance and indicated the nature of the bottom at the tiny spot where the lead had landed. What the bottom was like one-half foot or one-half mile away remained unknown.

Then came electronic depth indicators. These were not a very great improvement. The lead line had simply been replaced with a beam of sound that struck the bottom directly beneath the transducer and was reflected back to an amplifier where the half-time of travel was measured and converted to feet or fathoms. Later the measurements were recorded on a chart and depth indicators became depth recorders. The cone of sound did give a little more coverage of the bottom than the sounding lead and, with operator experience, a depth recording could lead to some conclusions about the nature of the bottom. But, the opaque window was still closed.

About 40 years ago sonar was developed. Basically, the transducer of a depth recorder was turned to transmit the cone of sound horizontally. Echoes from objects were indicated on a scope or chart. In some systems the transducers could be rotated in a full circle for search and for obtaining range and bearings of objects for navigation or for military purposes. Similar systems mounted beneath ships or in submarines could act as passive devices to listen to normal environ-

(Continued on Page 138)

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PRO DIVE

VANGUARD OF INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK

Pro Dive (Professional Diving Schools of Florida) is located at the Bahia Mar Yachting Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. It offers daily dive charters, a complete retail center, a full program of scuba instruction and a career development center.

The Professional Diving Schools of Florida, perhaps better known within diving circles as Pro Dive, has long been an innovative force in both resort dive operations and scuba instruction. Located at the Bahia Mar Yachting Center in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Pro Dive has successfully evolved into a base for daily dive charters, a tasteful and complete retail center and a complete scuba instruction and career development facility.

These three aspects of Pro Dive are being significantly improved for 1988. The retail center has doubled in size with the acquisition of the store directly next door. This will permit not only more floor space for greater inventory of sportswear and diving accessories, but the classroom will also double in size.

The *Pro Diver* is a 42 foot fiberglass V-hull diesel dive boat equipped for diver convenience with tank racks, dive platform with extended ladders, personal gear storage areas, padded camera box, complimentary soft drink dispenser and complete marine electronics.

For 1988 a new 55 foot diesel powered V-hull will join the fleet to better serve the

increasing demands of the scuba instruction programs and daily resort dives to the reefs and wrecks of Ft. Lauderdale.

According to owner Greg Mackay, one of the most exciting changes Pro Dive has in store for 1988 involves its new training director, Alex Brylske. He will be conducting all divemaster and instructor development courses (IDCs) within Pro Dive's career development division. Alex comes uniquely qualified for the position as one of the nation's foremost experts in recreational diver education. His 20 years of experience within the dive industry include six years on the staff at PADI International Headquarters with various duties including regional training coordinator, educational program development manager and, most recently, instructional design specialist. Currently, he heads his own educational consulting firm, Instructional Technologies, Inc.

His accomplishments in educational scuba include the principal design of most of PADI's professional training courses and seminars including the divemaster, IDC/IE and instructor cross-over programs. Under Brylske's direction, other diver level courses such as the open water and advanced open water curricula were refined and improved. As consultant to the PADI International College, Alex designed and evaluated the instructional programming for the world's largest instructor training facility and served as an instructor examiner.

As a further testament to his credibility in instructor training, Alex is one of the most prolific educational writers in the industry and has published more than two dozen articles on topics relative to instructional technology and educational psychology. He was also the author or co-author of many of PADI's texts and workbooks (including the *PADI Rescue*, *Divemaster*, and *Instructor* manuals). Finally, Alex was a primary contributor to PADI's new *Encyclopedia of Diving* and editor of the industry's most widely read text on legal issues, *The Law and the Diving Professional*. With a master of arts degree in instructional technology and design and a secondary teaching credential, Alex Brylske brings to Pro Dive students the unique opportunity to learn from the man who literally wrote the book on instructor training.

Recently, I had an opportunity to interview Alex regarding the career development division at Pro Dive. What follows are the highlights of that conversation:

SDM: There are a number of viable options for a person who wishes to pursue a career in the dive industry. What do you believe is the best choice?

Brylske: I feel the answer can be summed up in three words: locale, facilities and experience. With Pro Dive directly on the Ft. Lauderdale beach, there are a lot of recreational options during the off hours. But, more important to someone aspiring to a career in the dive industry, the location puts them in the heart of the largest dive market in the world and the gateway to the Caribbean. An added benefit is the climate, quality of diving just offshore and the warmth of the water. Students at Pro Dive train at some of the most exciting dive sites in south Florida, including the wreck of the *Mercedes I*.

The Pro Dive facilities are within the Bahia Mar Yachting Resort, the largest such complex in the state. Pro Dive offers island resort living with mainland convenience by adjoining a first class hotel complete with restaurants, two bars, shops, pool and complete resort amenities. The dive boats are docked just 100 feet from the classroom and a golf cart is used to transport tanks and equipment to the boats so students do not have to lug gear at all. The atmosphere is more like a country club than a school.

With this centrally convenient location, students may fly directly to Ft. Lauderdale International Airport, take a 10 minute taxi ride to the hotel and never need a car. Those who do drive may opt to park their cars in a secured lot and never get behind the wheel again until they leave (unless they choose to do so).

In terms of experience, prospective students will learn in the most realistic environment possible. As a full service dive charter and travel company, Pro Dive operates one of the premier retail dive stores in south Florida. The student will benefit from 13 years of experience just by being involved with Pro Dive and this sort of insight is impossible to gain at a facility that does nothing but teach.

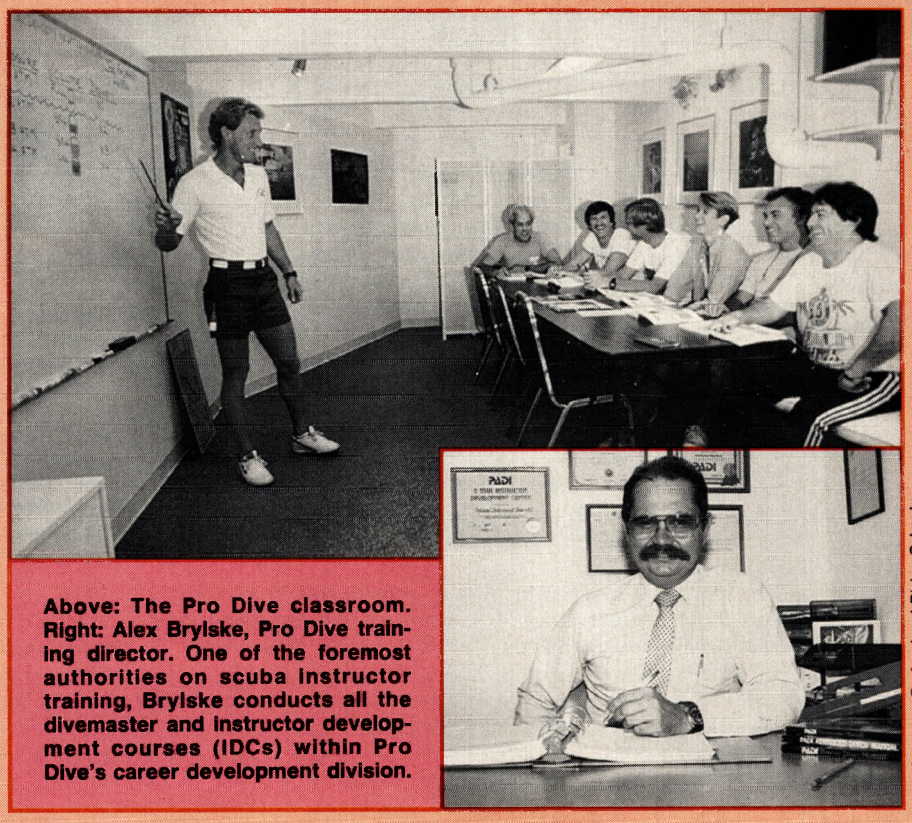
SDM: What types of courses does Pro Dive offer and, are they different from what might be available elsewhere?

Brylske: We can accommodate virtually any need. Because we use PADI programming, the courses are modularized so that students can select what training they want or need. For divers, we offer advanced open water through master scuba diver and many specialties. For professional-level training, students may earn their divemaster rating and take a standard seven day PADI ITC. For those certified as instructors already, a full range of courses such as the new PADI/medic first aid instructor and master diver trainer are available.

For 1988 we will introduce our new Total Immersion Program (TIP). We have discovered that many divers become excited about a career in diving soon after their entry level certifications, yet find it hard to continue their education owing to geographic or time considerations. The Total Immersion Program enables a diver with any entry level certification, one year's documented diving experience and as few as 12 open water dives to become an instructor in as little as 23 days.

This is not to imply that TIP is an easy program. Rather, it requires significant commitment. The student shall complete PADI advanced open water, rescue, divemaster and the IDC, as well as attending a PADI instructor evaluation. The work

(Continued on Page 52)



Above: The Pro Dive classroom. Right: Alex Brylske, Pro Dive training director. One of the foremost authorities on scuba instructor training, Brylske conducts all the divemaster and instructor development courses (IDCs) within Pro Dive's career development division.

photo/courtesy Professional Diving Schools

TABATA'S MINI LIBERATORS

A Stylish, User Friendly Fin

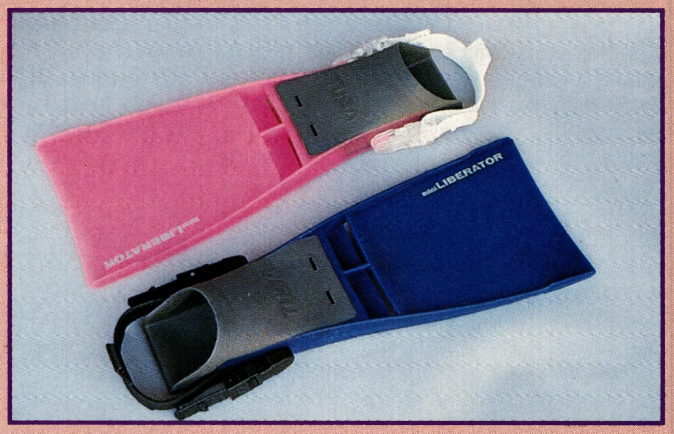
TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

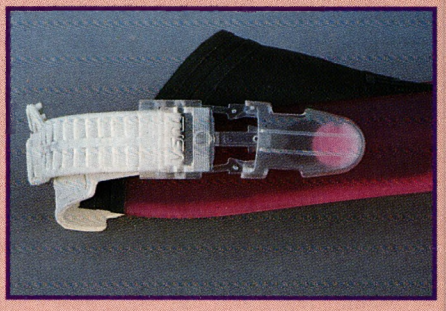
Tabata introduced its Liberator diving equipment last year. More items have been added to this user friendly line for 1988, including the Mini Liberator fins you see illustrated here. Skeptics will ask, "User friendly—how can a *fin* be user friendly?" Have patience, I'm about to enlighten you!

The answer is found in the strap and buckle system. Unlike that found on other fins, it has buckles that swivel. Pull down on the strap and you can slip your foot into the footpocket easily. Want to get out of your fins quickly? Squeeze a quick-release buckle (there are two on each fin) and one end of the strap separates from the footpocket. (It's just as easy to reattach.) Fins too loose? Pull on the stap end to tighten. Fins too tight? Press in on the buckle just below the letters Tusa and pull on the middle of the strap to loosen. Strap adjustments made in seconds; easy on, easy off—these are the reasons I call the Mini Liberators user friendly!

Of course, last year's Liberator fins also have this buckle system. But, they were designed with men in mind, the new Mini Liberators were designed specifically for women. They are ten percent smaller overall than the originals. Less than 20½ inches in total length, the Mini's blade is just 11¾ inches long; the footpocket, 8⅝ inches. The widest part of the blade measures less than 8¼ inches. These fins can be packed in almost any suitcase or gear bag for traveling. A pair weighs just more than three pounds (including foot pocket inserts), so it adds almost no weight to your baggage. One of plastic's biggest advantages is its lightweight. My neoprene fins—though shorter—weigh one and one-half pounds more per pair than the Mini Liberators. Many plastic fins float, as do the Liberators.

Tabata was one of the first to offer scaled down, colorful





The colorful Mini Liberators are smaller versions of the Liberator fins. Both feature a special, user friendly, strap and buckle system. They produce a powerful kick.

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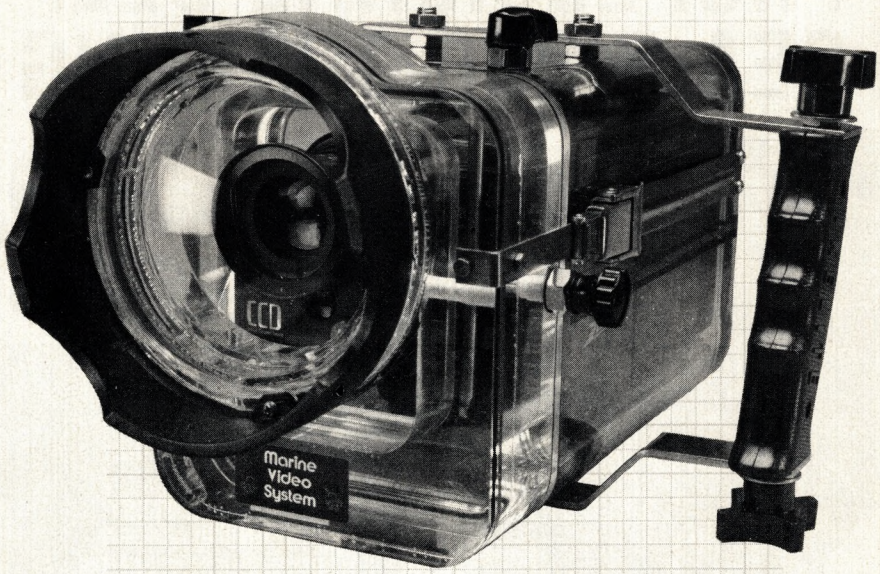

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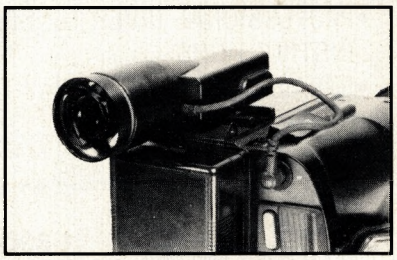

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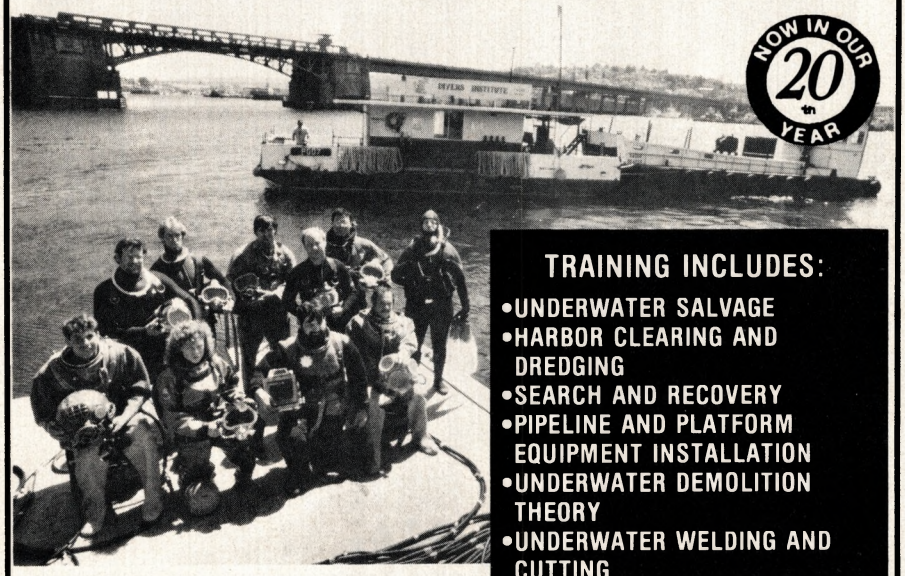

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MINI LIBERATOR

scuba gear specifically for women. The company knows we are not content to dress in basic black day after diving day. We look for style and color in all of our equipment and fins are no exception. The Mini Liberators have a pleasing shape and will be a pretty complement to the rest of your gear. The foot pocket is gray, the blades come in pink or royal blue.

Of course, the bottom line in a fin is performance and I doubt the Mini Liberator will disappoint. The elastomer blade is hydrodynamically designed to cut smoothly through the water. Side ribs provide strength and channel water efficiently. Vertical stabilizers on each side of the blade tip reduce sideslip. Vents reduce water resistance on the upkick and increase efficiency on the downkick. "Snappy" is the word that came to mind when I tried the Mini Liberators. The blade is stiff but flexible, providing a power kick without tiring.

The footpocket is designed to fit a woman's foot; it is narrower and has a higher arch. It is also an elastomer, but it's softer than the blade and quite comfortable. Twin slots in the toe section provide water drainage. Ridges on the underside help provide secure footing, even on slippery boat decks.

As you would expect, plastic fins require little care. There are no metal parts on the Liberators so there can be no corrosion. A good freshwater rinse at the end of the diving day will eliminate salt crystals and keep straps and buckles functioning smoothly. Don't store these fins where they will be subjected to excess heat because this can cause distortion. And, insert the plastic forms that come with the fins in the footpockets during storage.

Small in size, the Mini Liberators are long on performance, style and user friendly features. They come in one size, which will fit bootie clad female feet in shoe sizes four through nine. A pair sells for $70. For more information contact Tabata at 2380 Mira Mar Avenue, Long Beach Business Center, Long Beach, CA 90815.

THE WHEEL

(Continued from Page 37)

provides an ideal back-up. If a malfunction shuts down the computer, the diver can use The Wheel to continue making multilevel profiles when he/she resumes diving the next day.)

At a suggested retail price of $29.95, The Wheel offers recreational divers an inexpensive way to start multilevel diving with a system developed and extensively tested to meet their needs. For more information, see your local PADI training facility or contact PADI Headquarters, P.O. Box 15550, Santa Ana, CA 92705.

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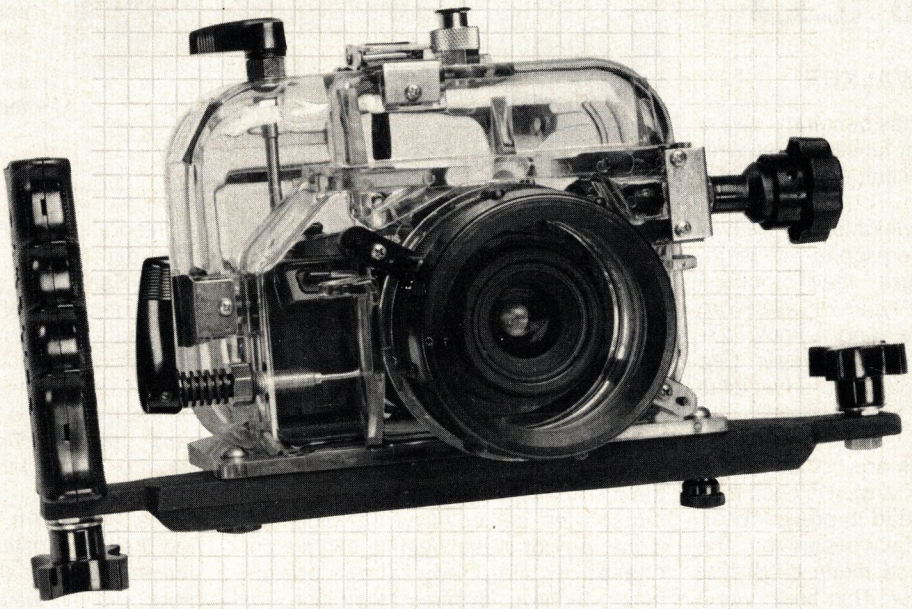

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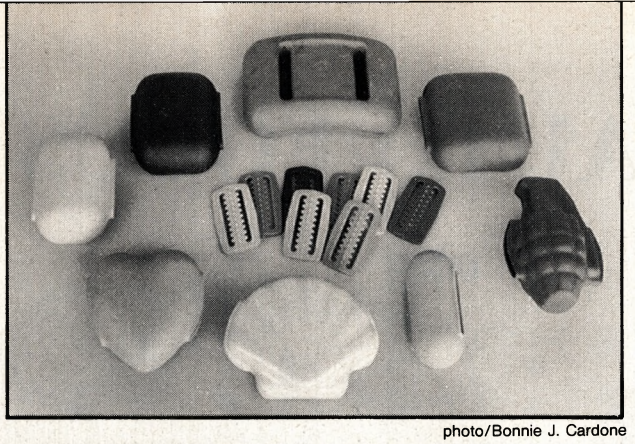
SEA PEARLS

BY JIM WALKER



photo/Bonnie J. Cardone

Sea Pearls dive weights have a tough bonded coating of .075 inch thick vinyl. They are available in several sizes, a host of colors and even in fantasy shapes. Plastic weight keepers and nylon webbing are available in the same bright colors.

The ugly duckling has become a swan! The last bastion of function over form has fallen. The weightbelt has become a fashion statement.

When I think of a weightbelt, I think of something like mine: equipped with large, knarly, scratched, gray lead blocks. I know there are other types of belts—I've even tested a couple. And, I know colored weights aren't new. However, Sea Pearls have gone earlier colored weights *two* better—offering better coating and fantasy shapes.

Sea Pearls weights are coated with a tough, .075 inch thick vinyl. It is chemically bonded on to the lead to prevent peeling, chipping, cracking or separation. The coating has a textured matte finish that produces a rich luster. This finish won't cause flashback in underwater photographs, resists scratching and even hides wear. It cleans up with a soapy steelwool pad. In addition to providing good looks, the coating helps protect boat decks and dive gear from the weights, and will help prevent wetsuit chafing. Besides, it just *feels* better than bare lead.

Sea Pearls are available in bullet shapes of 2, 3 and 4 pounds. They are available in 5, 6, 8 and 10 pound sizes as contoured hip weights. There is also a 2 pound bullet style with a built-in snap hook to which you can attach goodie bags, etc. The hip weights have the typical dual slot arrangement through which the belt is threaded. The belt slips directly through the center of all the other versions. Any of these weights can be purchased in blue, red, yellow, orange, black, fuchsia, lavender, turquoise, teal green or hot pink. There are similarly colored plastic weight keepers available. Even the nylon webbing belt material is available in these colors. You can set up your weightbelt with a multi-color design or accent or coordinate it with other dive gear. Now your weightbelt can look like an integral part of your equipment instead of an afterthought.

But, Sea Pearls don't stop at attractive colors on typical shapes. There's a heart (4 pounds—in red, pink, lavender or fuchsia) for the romantics among us, a seashell (4 or 6 pounds—in mother of pearl) for the marine life oriented, and even a hand grenade shape (4 pounds—olive green or black) for the popular paramilitary look.

Sea Pearls are distributed worldwide and their suggested retail price is $2.75 per pound (specialty shapes are slightly more and the weights with built-in clips are $10.95 each). For more information visit your dive store or contact Sea Pearls, P.O. Box 392, Osseo, MN 55369; (800) 328-3852 or (612) 424-5332.

Sea Pearls are great—just don't be too enamored of them to ditch 'em in an emergency!

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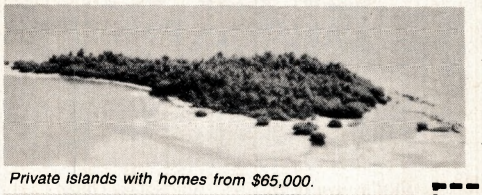

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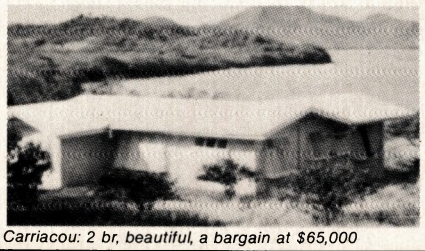

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WRECK FACTS

(Continued from Page 24)

specifications in order to be sure he has located the original *Bluenose*. "If the Canadian government won't pay for her salvage," Wellington says, "maybe private industry will." One thing for sure—there will be plenty of "schooners" raised to toast the resurrection of the ship that was saved by a stamp.

Congratulations to Bruce and Sue Longman, Mount Prospect, Illinois for their tireless efforts in fighting the ludicrous Abandoned Shipwreck Act. Bruce and Sue's letter to their senator was outstanding. They also have compiled a comprehensive list of dive shops and charter boats in the Midwest who they are keeping informed of actions to take against those who would rule us off shipwrecks. Bruce will send you a list and place your name and address on it if you write to him at 211 South Hi Lusi Avenue, Mount Pleasant, IL 60056. (Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

Richard Drew, Burbank, Illinois writes that one of his favorite Lake Michigan wrecks, the *David Dows*, is approaching the 100 year old mark. She sank in November 1889 in 40-60 feet of water. Richard lists the *Dows* approximately 6.5 miles from Chicago's south side, Loran numbers: 33383.5, 50201.4. Richard says, "She is one of the most beautiful ships ever to sail the Great Lakes, equipped with 19 working sails containing 70,000 yards of canvas. She had five masts, the main one towering 140 feet above deck. Constructed in Toledo in 1881 for M.D. Carrington, the *Dows* was later purchased by the Corrigan Line of Cleveland. She foundered in a snow storm off Whiting, Indiana." For further information on this and other wrecks, contact Richard Drew, 6841 W. 79th Street, Burbank, IL 60459.

Okay, enough about shipwrecks. How about a little trivia about sea captains, rum and buccaneers? According to the Haitians, the expression "OK" originated when sea captains stopped at the Aux Cayes in Haiti to pick up their superior rum. Upon arriving in Boston or New Orleans, the skipper announced by megaphone to the harbor master that he was coming from the Aux Cayes (pronounced O-ky) with good rum. This became our popular term, "OK."

Also, according to the Haitians, buccaneers would roast a whole goat on a spit on the beach. They would skewer it from the *barbe* (beard) through to the *cul* (derriere) or *barbecul*. Thus today we have a "barbecue." (Please, stick to hot dogs and hamburgers, not a whole goat!)

Divers might be interested in a new book about cobs—not the corn kind—but the coin kind. *The Practical Book of Cobs*, by Frank Sedwick, is the first of its kind to explain the subject of treasure

coins in terms to which laymen and neo-collectors can relate. Sedwick, the country's leading Spanish colonial numismatist, suggests, "First buy the book, then buy the coin." His book helps identify and evaluate cob coinage—coins struck by hand in hit or miss fashion on planchets (blanks) of irregular shape. The author's history of Spanish colonies in the New World leads into colonial mints, assayers, designs and values. This is a valuable book for anyone wishing to purchase a coin originating in the Spanish colonies of the New World. It is available from Ernie Richards, P.O. Box 1697, West Palm Beach, FL 33402. The price is $9 plus $1 postage.

Submarine enthusiasts will be interested in Erminio Bagnasco's 256 page hardback, *Submarines of World War Two.* It includes accurate and comprehensive details of the 2,500 submarines of all nations that saw action between 1939 and 1945. Construction and ship data are provided, accompanied by a brief history of the wartime career of each class of submarine—including midgets, large U-cruisers and experimental designs. It concludes with a brief history of the submarine's wartime career and the fate of each member of the class. The book is available from the U.S. Naval Institute, 2062 Generals Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401-6780. The price is $32.95.

Safe diving to all. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope when writing to: Ellsworth Boyd, 1120 Bernoudy Road, White Hall, MD 21161.

U/W VIDEO COURSE

(Continued from Page 39)

Jim moved in for a close-up shot of Cathy holding up her pressure gauge so her dive buddy could see she was low on air. Jim then moved back for a medium distance shot of Cathy giving her buddy the thumb up signal to return to the surface, followed by a long distance shot of her swimming to the anchorline. He ended the story with another long distance shot of Cathy giving the universal OK signal with thumb and forefinger to let her buddy know she was OK and had enjoyed the dive. The ending implied the viewer had actually made the dive with Cathy.

PLANNING YOUR VIDEO STORY

You don't need sunken tugs or submarines to get your dive buddy and TV viewer involved in your U/W video movie. Simply record a dive and try to create some action. Generally, if you have more than one action you can shoot, begin with the weakest and build up to the strongest.

The model needs to remember a few simple tips:

1. Look at the camera, smile at it and make gestures at it as if it were a person. Yes, this will take some practice.

2. Don't swim too fast. Otherwise all

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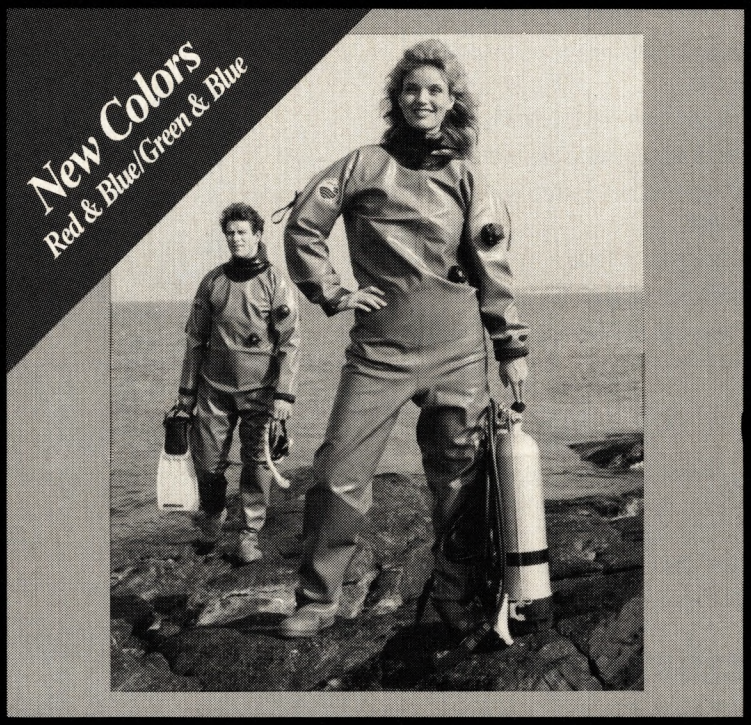

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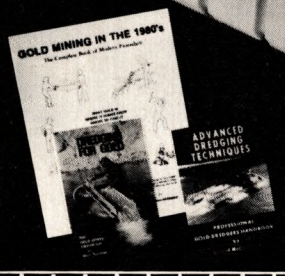

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U/W VIDEO COURSE

your buddy will see is your fins disappearing into the distance.

3. When swimming, keep your arms in close to your body so all of you fits into the picture.

4. If you are doing a specific action—such as taking a still picture—do the action quickly. Otherwise the scene will be too long and boring. Take one picture for the pose and another for yourself.

5. When examining a subject, such as a sponge or anemone, get close so both you and the subject fit into the picture.

6. Insist on a written shot list on a slate if the videographer has a list of specific scenes to shoot.

7. Tidy up your dive gear. Don't allow a large console to dangle below you.

8. If the video will take more than one dive to shoot, take along the same equipment and gear for each shoot.

THE BASIC VIDEO SHOTS

The terms long distance shot (LS), medium distance shot (MS) and close-up shot (CU) are relative to the size of the subject. For example, a LS showing the sunken tug would cover a much greater picture area than a LS of an eel's lair. Likewise, a CU of Cathy showing her pressure gauge would cover a larger picture area than a CU of an eel's head peeking out from his lair.

A few tips for the U/W videographer are as follows:

1. You must try to be more of a dive buddy and less of a videographer. Interact with the model.

2. Make sure you agree on specific hand signals ahead of time.

3. Think of ways you can use your video camera to mimic a diver. If your model holds up a depth or pressure gauge for you to see, reach around the camera and hold up your gauges toward your model.

If the model is new to posing, don't expect too much at first. Many people are camera shy and need time to relax and find out what is expected of them. The U/W videographer should help by casually recording a few dives and being careful to control his/her temper if things don't go right at first. A little praise as you view the tape will gain much more than criticism. Save complex video stories for later, when your partner has warmed up to the idea of using the camera as a dive buddy.

PRO DIVE

(Continued from Page 43)

level is high and free time at a premium, but Pro Dive goes to great lengths to provide a caring, nurturing and non-threatening environment. Our students go home thinking it was the best educational experience of their lives.

The TIP program is most effective for those with proper attitudes and motiva-

tions. The program is similar to many other vocational training formats. Foreign languages have been taught this way for years and this is where the term "total immersion" developed. At Pro Dive we have modified these proven teaching techniques to career development within the dive industry.

I consider myself an educator first and foremost. As an educational consultant I've worked with several colleges and the federal government in developing vocational curricula and training programs and have seen how other industries tackle problems involving training and development. In general, diving could learn from these industries, but there are a few things they could learn from us and our instructor training format is a good case in point.

At Pro Dive we will use the most up-to-date techniques, media and educational research available. I've made a personal commitment to the people at Pro Dive to ensure that our programs will provide absolutely first class instruction.

SDM: The format of your curricula sounds more like a college than a traditional diving school. I presume that is your intention.

Brylske: We feel the mechanics of education are the same whether you are teaching nuclear physics at MIT or instructor training for the dive industry. While we may not be running a college, we do intend to take full advantage of what the academic community can offer. PADI's core curriculum courses have been approved by the American Council on Education (Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction) and are the only recreational diving courses to have received such approval. This means that after completing our program and requesting a transcript from PADI headquarters, a student can earn up to six college credits for the work accomplished at Pro Dive. We are proud of our contributions to the dive industry and are gratified to be able to produce better qualified sport divers and instructors.

For further information regarding Pro Dive's diver education programs or resort diving packages, please contact Professional Diving Schools of Florida at the Bahia Mar Yachting Center, 801 Seabreeze Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33316 or call (800) 772-DIVE. In Florida phone (305) 761-3413.

1987 NIKONOS SHOOTOUT CORRECTION

A sidebar to an article on the 1987 Nikonos Shootout in the December 1987 SDM listed the prizewinners. Jane Shupak was listed as receiving honorable mention for macro photography in the Bonaire Shootout. While she did participate in the contest, it was actually her husband, Rob Shupak, who received honorable mention. Ah well, all in the family.

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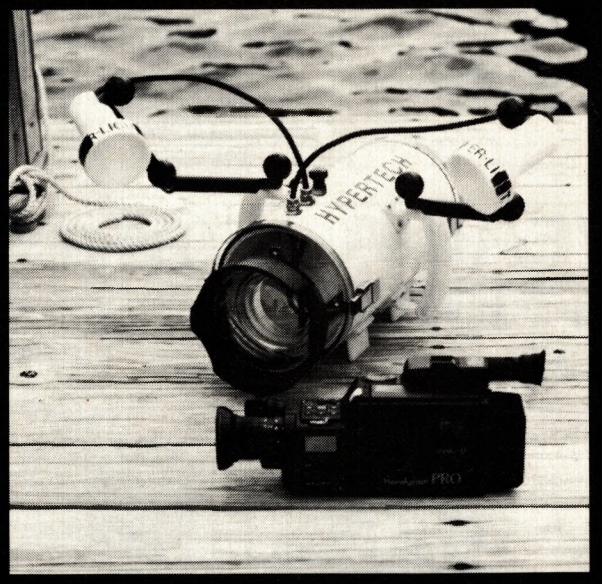

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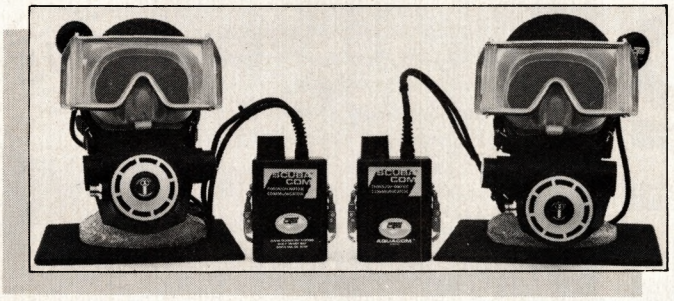

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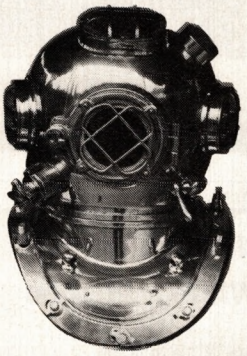

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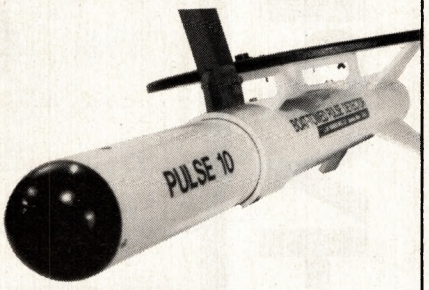

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DIVING MEDICINE

(Continued from Page 32)

cates decompression debt during a decompression dive).

Other information shown on the display includes the temperature, a ceiling for decompression stops, the depth and the current dive time.

The tissue calculations in the Edge are essentially the same as those used by Haldane in his pioneering decompression research and by generations of subsequent decompression researchers. But, there are two important differences.

We departed from the past practices by tracking the longer tissue half-times the navy did not consider and by backing off from the limits used in the construction of the navy tables. This allowed the Edge to retain the simplicity of the time-tested Haldanian formulae, yet it would never produce unsafe profiles. And, it would be totally free of dependence on maximum depth or total bottom time!

The Edge limits were based on previous studies using ultrasonic bubble detectors and were designed to prevent the formation of detectable silent bubbles. Studies have shown that divers surfacing from a dive to the exact limits of the navy tables sometimes exhibited significant silent bubbles. [Navy divemasters move to a more conservative table when a diver is at the limits of a table—thus the low bends rate in the Navy—F.B.]. Silent bubbles mean that, though present in a diver's circulatory system, they do not cause apparent harm. Navy tables were established simply to avoid bends. The repetitive tables were empirically adjusted after many years of experience to reduce the bends incidence. Ultrasonic bubble detectors were unavailable then. Could it be that the presence of silent bubbles was somehow interfering with the off-gassing of nitrogen during the surface interval?

Dr. Merrill Spencer, a pioneer in this work, determined that by cutting back from the navy limits slightly, divers could surface with no detectable bubbles. Karl Huggins hence created new permitted tissue saturation values, which form the position of the limit line on the Edge.

I felt that by minimizing silent bubbles, the nitrogen would flow in and out in a simple, predictable fashion. Once bubbles grow to a size where they can block capillary blood flow and initiate the action of blood clotting factors, the simplicity is lost and the inherent biological variability between individual divers becomes significant. We wanted to avoid the subclinical physiological insult to the body that navy tables permit. And, all it would cost us was a reduction in the dive time for square (single depth) dive profiles.

In return, what did we get? For one thing, we got multilevel credit. You can start a dive at 140 feet and work your way up over an hour! It is equally possible to

start shallow and go progressively deeper, although this would yield less no decompression time by about 20 minutes.

The second benefit from no-bubble limits is more generous surface interval time. The navy repet tables are stingy, but the navy chose this conservative approach to maintain a low bends incidence. With the Edge, if no bubbles are present, the nitrogen leaves more efficiently. Thus, you can go back in the water sooner.

Aside from the no-bubble limits, the other key to the Edge's safety is the inclusion of very slow tissues. The navy tables stop at a 120 minute half-time, whereas the Edge goes to 480 minutes. According to the 120 minute navy method, all nitrogen is essentially gone after only 12 hours and you can dive as if it is your first dive. This is unsafe. Multi-day diving can produce significant bends, especially with 20-40 foot dives, which pack the slow tissues such as fat and bone with nitrogen! You are not "clean" after 12 hours. The Edge will often show residual nitrogen even 24 hours or more after the last dive. It can thus safely track and protect your slow tissues over periods of days or weeks. [This requires that the Edge be left on for several days—F.B.]

Because of the ability to track even the *slowest* body tissues and the factoring in of all tissues for repetitive calculations, the Edge excels for repetitive dives.

Orca Industries conducted a study of the Edge prior to its release consisting of 119 man-dives under controlled conditions in a hyperbaric chamber. The tests were conducted at the University of Southern California whose support we remember appreciatively. Our subjects were aged 21-61 years, both male and female. They pedaled a bicycle ergometer in the chamber to simulate exertion underwater. At the end of each dive they were checked with a Doppler sensor placed over the heart. The profiles were rigorous, pegging every tissue of the Edge to the limit line at some point during the series. The dives were way off the tables, but they were just at the limits of the Edge. And, they were safe. No bends occurred. One case of grade 1 silent bubbles occurred, the lowest detectable level. The results were splendid. Although the number of test dives was much smaller than we desired, it was our best effort. For me, it confirmed the hunch that simplicity and abundant multilevel credit were possible by remaining in a no-bubble state. We released the Edge for sale in August 1983 and have consistently had excellent safety and satisfied customers, with only 14 cases of bends in 500,000 dives. The study is published in the proceedings of IQ14, the 14th International Conference on Underwater Education. (Copies of the study are also available by writing Orca Industries.)

Decompression computers are not a panacea. They are only a tool for safer,

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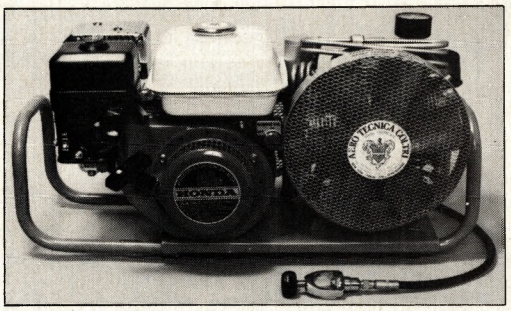

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DIVING MEDICINE

more enjoyable diving. Divers must never throw away their training and blindly trust an instrument to keep them out of trouble. They must thoroughly understand their equipment, their environment and their abilities. [Note that they are adjusted for the average diver and cannot sense the fact that fatigue, excess work, older age, etc., may come into play—F.B.]

What about the future of diving computers? The Skinny Dipper, an offspring of the Edge, was in essence designed by hundreds of Edge owners who sent us their "wish lists." The Skinny Dipper is lighter, smaller and less expensive than the Edge. It doesn't have all the fancy graphics of the Edge or its "bomb-proof" casing, but, internally, it operates identically to the Edge.

The age of decompression computers is upon us. The Edge clearly has led the field and we congratulate Craig Barshinger for his pioneering work. Remember that the computer does not know who you are, your unique physiology or the state of your body. Conservative diving, even with the computer calculation, is strongly advised—F.B.

GOURMET DIVER

(Continued from Page 34)

it too much, as the resultant rain of silt and mud will lower your visibility significantly. If you are unfamiliar with oysters, it will help to have a look at a few in a seafood shop, as those resting on the bottom look like rocks to untrained eyes.

Preparation of oysters runs the gamut from raw or on the halfshell, to a delicious combination of oysters, prosciutto, Parmesan cheese and chives that is as elegant a dish as will ever grace a well laid table. Served raw, six oysters contain only about 60 calories and when garnished with spicy seafood sauce make an excellent light appetizer. Steamed oysters are a favorite coastal treat as well. Simply place a couple of dozen in a large pot with an inch or two of water in the bottom and maybe some old bay seasoning thrown in for good measure. Bring the water to a boil and cook for 15 or 20 minutes, then serve on the halfshell with melted butter and seafood sauce. Don't be surprised if all your oysters don't open when steamed. Most will never open more than a quarter of an inch or so, and some open just enough to slip in a knife and pop open the shell.

It is rare to find a bad oyster. As a rule, if the shell is tightly closed when the oyster is taken and the meat is shiny and wet when it is opened, the oyster is alive and well, and ready to be eaten. Stored in a cool, damp place a bushel of oysters will survive up to a week or more with no special treatment and they can be used as

wanted. Two weeks is pushing the limit, although they have been kept that long. An oyster that has died recently enough so as to leave the shell intact has a rather nasty smell and it is quite unlikely that anyone whose olfactory sense is fully functional would eat one by mistake. The most common reason for sickness as a result of oyster consumption is the ingestion of shellfish that have been taken from areas that have become polluted. Like all filter feeding bivalves oysters are easily contaminated and care must be taken not to harvest from such areas. All states that have oyster populations mark their polluted areas and marine resource agencies can steer the would-be oyster diver away from any trouble spots.

Perhaps the most difficult thing for the novice oyster eater to master is the art of opening a raw specimen. For this task a special, long bladed knife is the best tool. These, and the previously mentioned culling hammers may be obtained at seafood houses, or at hardware stores in most coastal areas. Purchase a pair of heavy rubber gloves to protect hands from sharp shell edges and work on a hard surface. A butcher block is ideal. Place the oyster on the block with the flatter half of the shell facing upward and with the hinge pointing away from you. Carefully work the knife under the edge of the shell and slide it in so as to cut the muscle, in the approximate center of the oyster. Pry open the shell and gently lift the meat in order to cut the muscle on the other side. A true connoisseur will then garnish the oyster with a favorite topping and enjoy it straight from the shell. It is by no means as easy to do as it sounds, but with a little practice you will be ready to leave that speargun on the shelf and go in search of the most succulent shellfish in the sea.

TREASURE DIVERS

Treasure Divers has opened its doors at Richmond's Landing, MM 85.5, bayside in Islamorada, Florida. The newly remodeled and expanded facility, with easy access to and from Snake Creek, includes a fully equipped dive shop with air fills, gear rentals and instruction, as well as boat rentals, a motel, restaurant and lounge, ship's store (stocking bait and tackle) and a boat ramp.

Treasure Divers will continue to offer (in association with Ocean 80 Resort) a luxury dive package and will be covering extended dive sites from Conch Reef to the *San Pedro* wreck, including many new and seldom visited locations. There is a six passenger maximum per boat with the *Enterprise*—a comfortable vessel with flybridge, full electronics and enclosed cabin with head—leading the fleet.

For more information or reservations phone (305) 664-5111 or write to Treasure Divers, Inc., 85500 Overseas Highway, Islamorada, Florida 33036.

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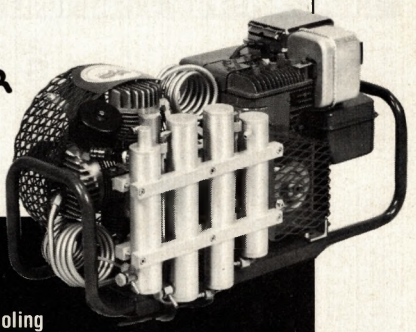

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EAR FORUM Dr. Bove discusses typical questions asked about ears and diving next month in skin diver

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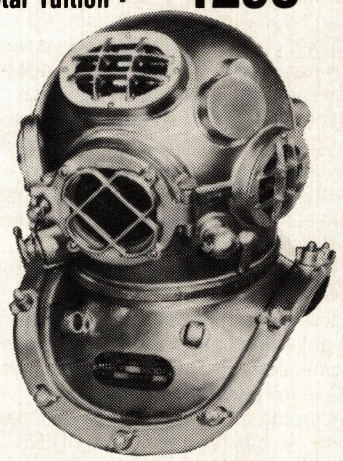

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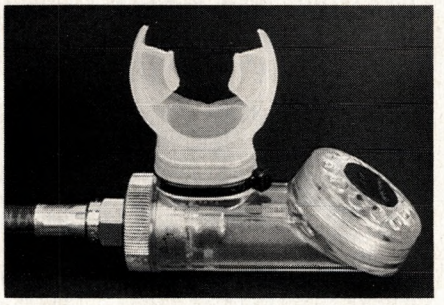
OCEANIC'S CRYSTAL CLEAR OMEGA II A SEE-THROUGH SECOND STAGE

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

Just more than a year ago, we showed you the Oceanic Color Kit: There are five of these gum drop colored second stages for the Omega II. This meant divers could color coordinate their regulators with the rest of their scuba gear. The Omega II comes with a black second stage, the Color Kit provided a blue, pink, lavender, turquoise or orange second stage. Now there is a seventh alternative: the Crystal Clear.

Made of a transparent plastic, the Crystal Clear is a see-through second stage. Obviously, since it's devoid of color it can't clash with any other piece of equipment. Since it's plastic, it won't produce flare or glare in underwater photos. A more obvious reason for a clear second stage, however, is that it allows you to see its inner workings. You can actually *watch* this regulator work. (When it's not in your mouth, of course!) You can also see any sand or debris that might get caught inside or air leaks (these are very unlikely) that might be developing.



Although the Crystal Clear looks and sounds delicate, it's not. The housing is a space age polycarbonate; a sturdy material that can take the kind of abuse a regulator second stage receives.

One of the many advantages of a plastic second stage is its lightweight. The Crystal Clear weighs just six ounces. Because of this and its orthodontically designed mouthpiece, it won't cause jaw fatigue. The mouthpiece is made of surgical grade silicone and even has a top and a bottom (the "Pat. pend." goes on top).

I'm not going to provide a technical report on the Omega II, Eric Hanauer did that in the November 1987 SDM. I will tell you it's an easy breathing, dependable regulator. The Omega II, with the Crystal Clear second stage, sells for $278. See through it at your Oceanic dealer.

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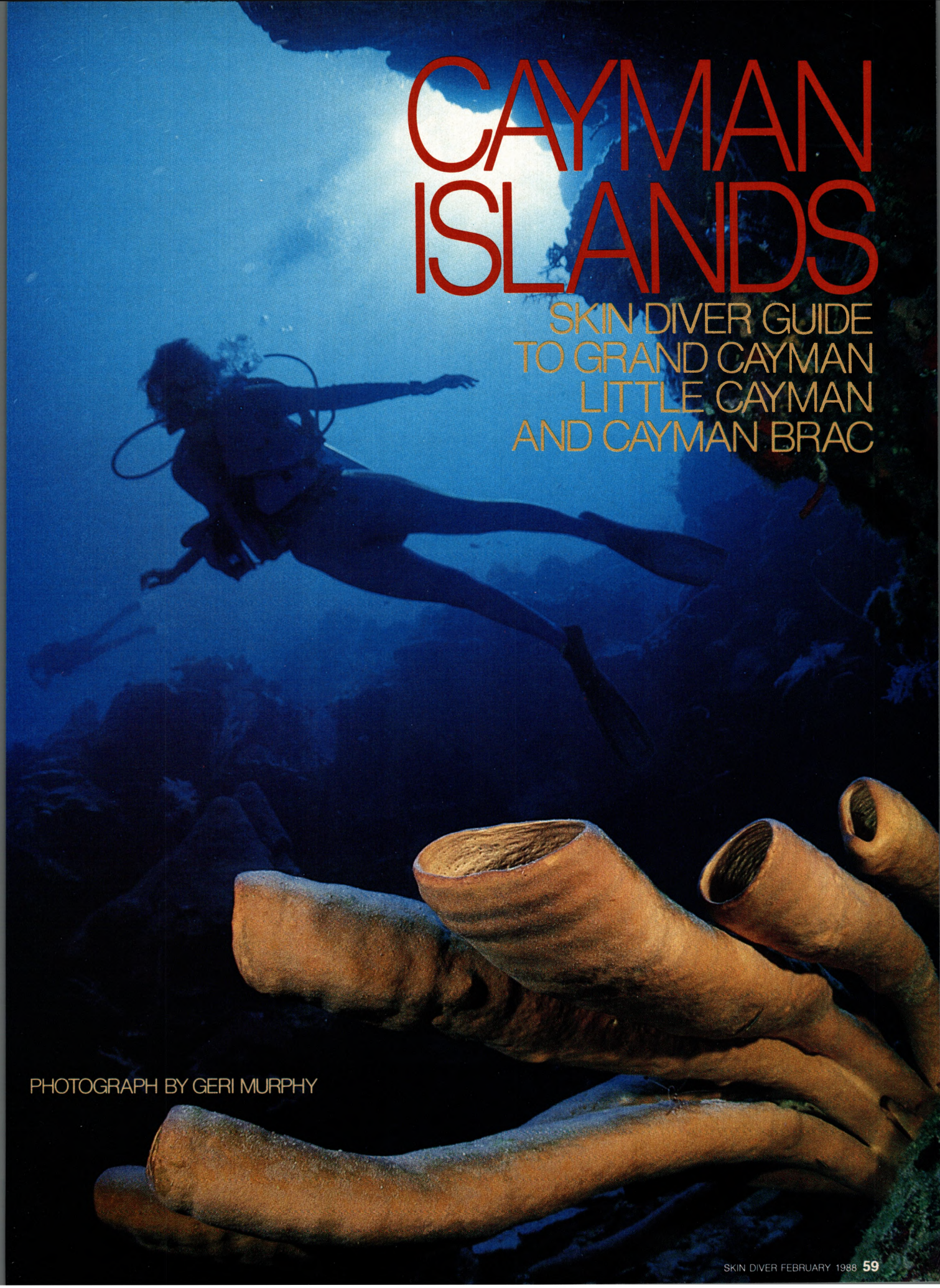
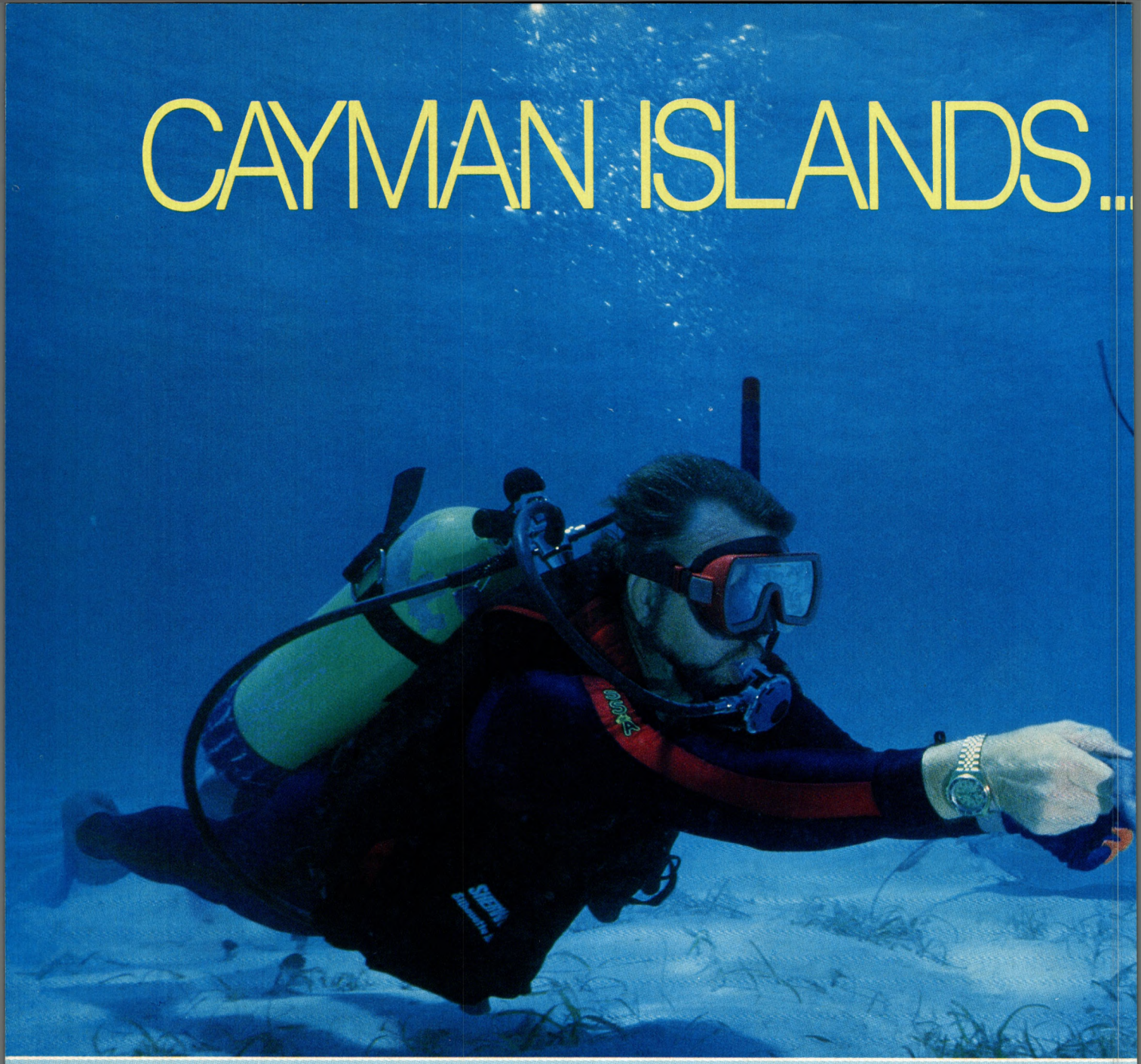
CAYMAN ISLANDS

SKIN DIVER GUIDE TO GRAND CAYMAN LITTLE CAYMAN AND CAYMAN BRAC



PHOTOGRAPH BY GERI MURPHY

CAYMAN ISLANDS...



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

During the past ten years the popularity of the Cayman Islands has grown to the point where they are the King Kong of Caribbean diving. They are the highest pinnacle of adventure and pleasure in today's world of vacation diving.

Comprised of three small islands set in a cobalt blue Caribbean Sea, the Caymans are an unchallenged mecca for sport diving enthusiasts. They provide the ultimate baptism for newly certified divers and are an all time favorite of experienced divers, who return year after year.

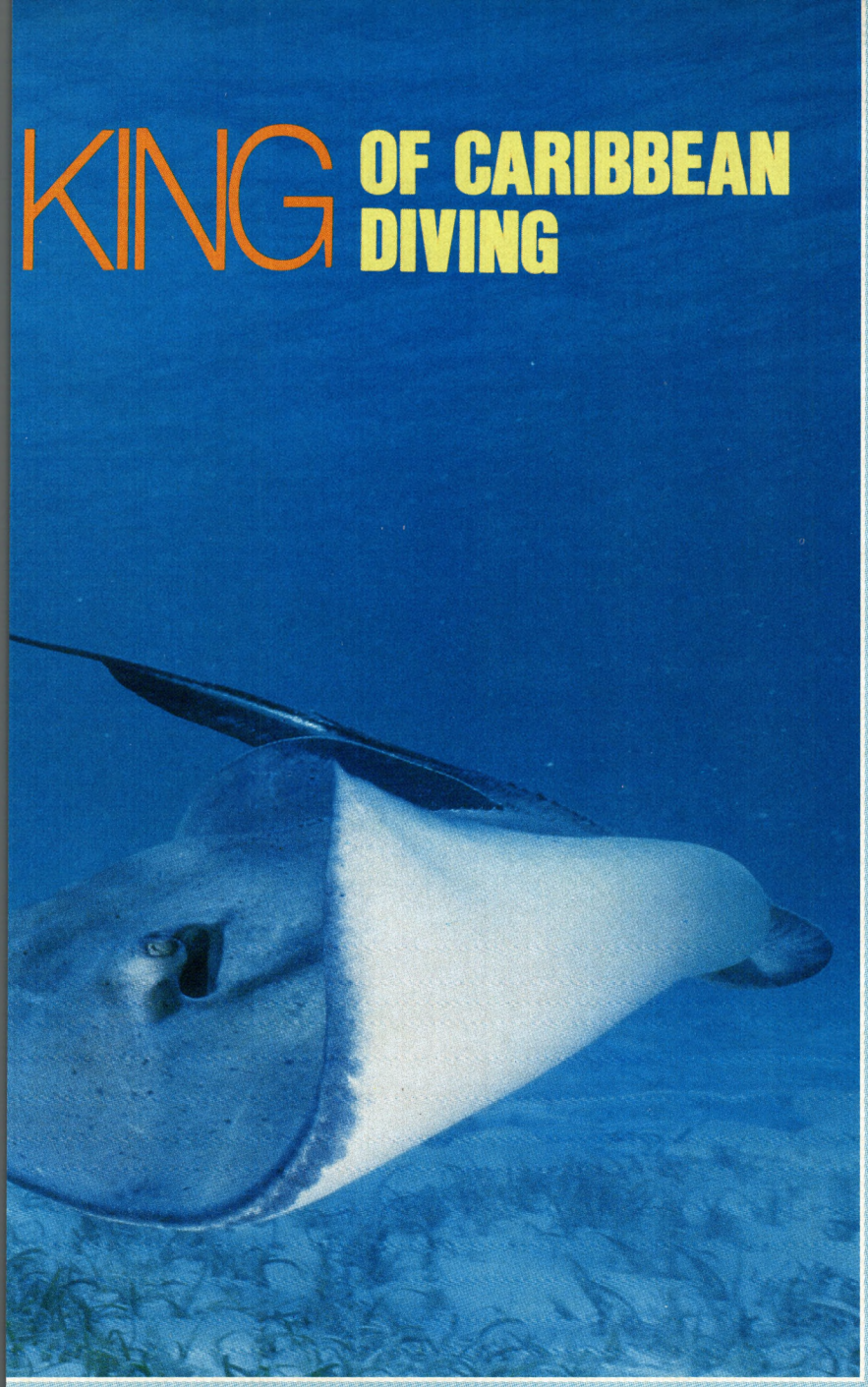
There are many things that make the Caymans special, not the least of which is their legendary underwater visibility. An average day is 100 feet plus and on good days it can be 150 feet. For first time Caribbean divers, this kind of water clarity is an exhilarating experience!

Another basic attraction of the Caymans is the remarkable vertical drop-offs. These islands are actually the exposed peaks of a giant undersea mountain range. Each island is ringed with vertical coral walls that plummet to abyssal depths thousands of feet below. Most of these walls begin at 50-60 feet, but there are a few that begin at 40 feet and one at Little Cayman that starts at 18 feet.

The coral walls of the Caymans are legendary for their magnificent growth of marine life. Nurtured by oxygen rich oceanic water, these drop-offs have become a splendid tapestry of gorgonian fans, black coral trees, delicate hard corals and brilliantly colored sponges. Their natural beauty is equal to any of the world's great botanical gardens. And, speaking of sponges, the Caymans have some of the largest in the world. These Goliaths include barrel sponges 10 feet tall and basket sponges seven feet across!

While other Caribbean islands can offer drop-offs and good underwater visibility, none can match the excitement and fascination of Cayman's fish action. Underwater, the Caymans are a three ring circus, with a major animal act in every ring. Tarpon Alley is a coral canyon filled with silvery fish that allow divers to swim among them. Stingray City is a shallow dive among a community of 11 tame stingrays that can be handfed and petted. There is a 400 pound jewfish named Sweetlips that lives on the *Oro Verde* wreck and follows divers around like a

KING OF CARIBBEAN DIVING



A diver plays with a friendly stingray at Stingray City.

Barracuda feeding at Waldo's Reef.

Cayman—sponge capital of the Caribbean.

Sweetlips, the 400 pound jewfish at the *Oro Verde* wreck.

photos/Wayne Hasson

Petting a friendly, six foot green moray.

CAYMAN

puppy dog. Waldo's Reef is a menagerie of friendly creatures including two, six foot long green moray eels; Bugsy the 200 pound black grouper; and a barracuda that can be fed by the divemasters. These are but a few of the amazing fish that Cayman visitors encounter on a regular basis—and all are protected by marine park laws. And, while dive resorts continue to spring up on islands throughout the Caribbean, the Cayman Islands remain king.

AIRLINE SERVICE

The Caymans are close, convenient neighbors to the U.S. and easy to reach. The advent of direct nonstop jet service has placed these tiny islands within commuting distance of several major U.S. cities. They are only 495 miles south of Miami, with a flight time of less than one and one-half hours. Houston is only 1,220 miles away and the flight takes two and one-half hours.

Four airlines operate nonstop flights in and out of Cayman: Cayman, Northwest, Eastern and Air Jamaica.

Cayman Airways operates nonstop 727-200 jet flights from Miami to Grand Cayman twice daily (every day) with an extra evening flight on Mondays.

Cayman Airways also operates nonstop 727-200 jet flights from Houston, Texas to Grand Cayman four times weekly in the winter. Departures are in the late afternoon on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The newest additions to Cayman Airways' network of scheduled flights includes nonstop jet service from both Atlanta and Tampa.

Cayman Airways now operates 727-200 jets to Cayman Brac five times weekly. It also has a 330 Shorts commuter air service between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac six days weekly and between the Brac and Little Cayman four days weekly.

In addition to their regularly scheduled flights from Miami and Houston, Cayman Airways aircraft and flight crews are used for special charter flights. The charters run on a weekend schedule from such U.S. cities as New York, Newark, Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, St. Louis and Minneapolis. They are only operational during Cayman's winter season, from mid-December to mid-April.

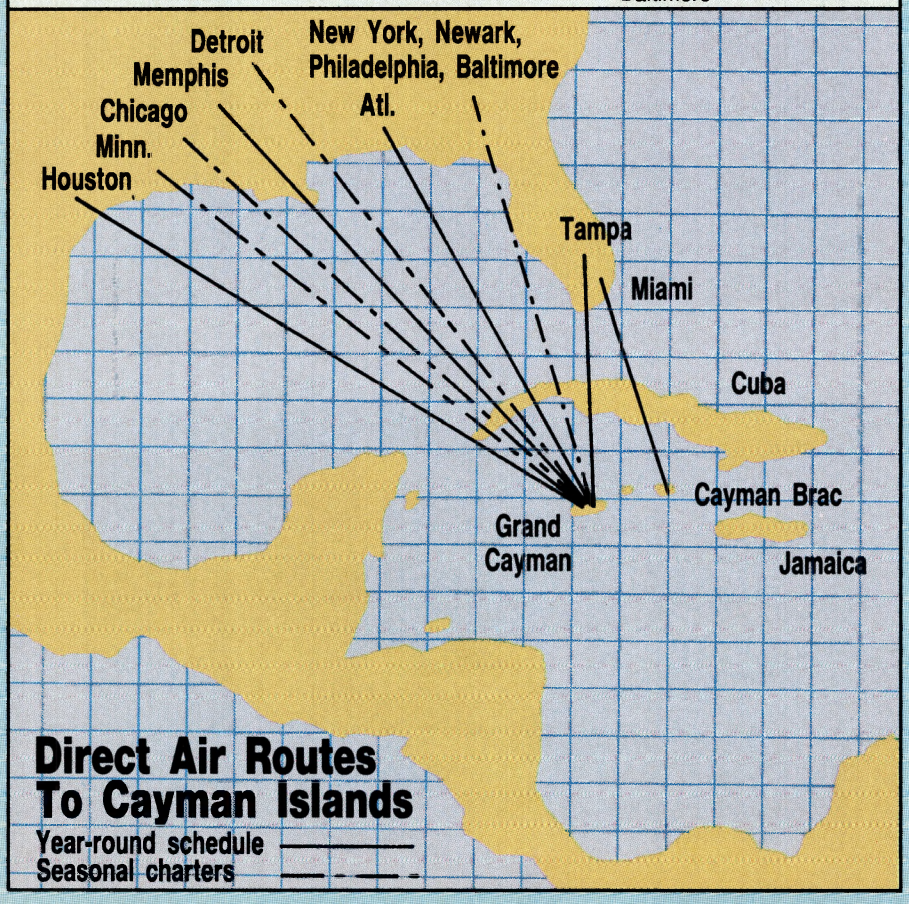
Northwest Airlines operates nonstop DC-9 jet flights from Miami to Grand Cayman and from Memphis to Grand Cayman. In addition to the 14 flights per week, Northwest offers the advantage of airline connections with other Northwest flights throughout the Midwest and East. These connections include such U.S. cities as Minneapolis, Detroit and Atlanta.

Air Jamaica flies from Kingston to Grand Cayman several times weekly and from Montego Bay once a week. It is possible to fly from Miami to Grand Cayman via a Jamaica connection by utilizing Air Jamaica's frequent flight schedule.

Once you have landed in the Caymans, it is extremely important you reconfirm your return flight reservations. While departure arrangements may be the farthest thing from your mind, reconfirmation is best accomplished at the time of arrival. It can be done right at the airport, at the downtown ticket office or by telephone. The airlines require you reconfirm your flight reservations 72 hours (three days) in advance of departure.

AIRLINE RESERVATIONS & FLIGHT INFORMATION

Service	Toll Free #	To Cayman from
Air Jamaica	(800) 523-5618	Montego Bay, Kingston
Cayman Airways	(800) 422-9626	Atlanta, Tampa, Houston, Kingston, Miami, Montego Bay
Northwest Airlines	(800) 441-1414	Memphis, Miami
Eastern Airlines	(800) 327-8376	Miami
	(CHARTERS)	
Cayman Express	(800) 262-7686	Chicago (Midway), New York (JFK)
Classic Tours	(800) 225-5432	Boston
Thomson Vacations	(800) 222-6400	Chicago (O'Hare), Detroit, Milwaukee, Toronto
Twin City Tours	(800) 328-3786	St. Louis, Minneapolis
Wainwright Tours	(215) 866-5151	Philadelphia, Newark, Baltimore



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Our resort features deluxe air-conditioned rooms with color satellite TV, Grand Cayman's finest nightclub *"Silver's"*, two fresh-water pools, superior dining at L'Escargot and the Island's most complete watersports along our beautiful sand beach. Plus, you might see some of our celebrity owners such as Conway Twitty, Ronnie Milsap or Larry Gatlin during your stay at Treasure Island.

TREASURE ISLAND DIVERS' FLEET - Three of our celebrity owners have lent their names to our fleet of custom 45-foot dive boats. **Treasure Island Dive Resort** also has a brand new 65-foot **LIVE ABOARD DIVING YACHT** that offers something totally new in dive vacations.

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ENTRY

While enroute by air to Cayman, you will be given an immigration entry form. It is a simple card that takes a few minutes to fill out and sign. Upon entering the Cayman air terminal, you will first pass through immigration processing and then have your baggage checked by customs.

Cayman immigration law requires three things of visitors: proof of citizenship, a completed entry form and a return air ticket. Although a passport is not necessary for U.S. or Canadian citizens, it is the easiest form of identification. For those without a passport, a voter's registration card is an acceptable alternative but an automobile driver's license is not. Passports, but not visas, are required for British and Commonwealth subjects other than Canadians.

After clearing immigration, you will be required to present your luggage for inspection by a Cayman customs officer. The inspector may want to go through your suitcase, dive gear bag and whatever carry-on luggage you may have. Do not attempt to smuggle in any type of illegal contraband such as handguns, ammunition or explosives.

A special warning to those to whom it may apply: Do not attempt to bring in any sort of illegal drugs, including marijuana. The Cayman Islands have the most severe anti-drug laws in the Caribbean. Violators are immediately arrested and taken off to jail. Visiting tourists are not immune to this enforcement. Violators can receive jail terms of up to ten years and fines up to $20,000.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The official currency of the Cayman Islands is the C.I. dollar. However, the U.S. dollar is in wide circulation. Both are happily accepted by hotels, stores, dive operators and restaurants. In most cases, if you pay for something in U.S. dollars, you are likely to receive your change in C.I. dollars.

To give you a reference point to work from in converting your money from U.S. to C.I. dollars and vice versa, we have prepared a Currency Exchange Rate chart. Please note the conversions were based on the U.S. $1.25 = C.I. $1.00.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

U.S. Dollars	Cayman Dollars
$ 1.00	$ .80
2.00	1.60
5.00	4.00
10.00	8.00
20.00	16.00
50.00	40.00
100.00	80.00

Cayman Dollars	U.S. Dollars
$ 1.00	$ 1.25
5.00	6.25
10.00	12.50
25.00	31.25
40.00	50.00
100.00	125.00

TELEPHONE SERVICE

The Cayman Islands have a modern automatic telephone system that enables visitors to call anywhere among the three islands or put through an international call to most anywhere in the world. There is direct dialing into Cayman from the U.S., Canada, U.K. and Europe.

When making a local call in the Cayman Islands, a five digit number is used (such as 9-1234). From the U.S. you can direct dial any number in the Caymans

CAYMAN LOCAL PHONE NUMBERS

DIVE SERVICES

GRAND CAYMAN

Atlantis Tours Ltd.	9-7700
Bob Soto's Diving Ltd.	
Headquarters	9-2022
Cayman Islander	9-7695
Holiday Inn	7-4631
Scuba Centre	9-6469
Cayman Aggressor Fleet	9-5551
Cayman Diving Lodge	7-7555
Cayman Diving School	9-4729
Cayman Kai Resort	7-9556
Clint Ebanks Scuba Cayman	9-3873
Coconut Harbour	9-7025
Divers World	9-8128
Don Foster's Dive Cayman	9-7025
Grand Pavilion	7-4666
Ocean Photo Center	9-5679
Royal Palms	9-5679
Eden Rock Diving Ctr. Ltd.	9-7243
Fisheye Photographic	7-4209
Gulfstream Charters	9-4456
Hyperbaric Chamber	9-4235
Nick's Aqua Sports	9-8745
Ocean Images	9-2022
Peter Milburn's Dive Cayman	7-4341
Quabbin Dives Ltd.	9-5597
Research Submersibles Ltd.	9-3870
Rivers Sport Divers	9-1181
Seasports Ltd.	9-3965
Spanish Cove Resort	9-3765
Sunset Divers Ltd.	9-7111
Surfside Watersports Ltd.	9-7330
Surfside Rum Point	7-9598
The Tortuga Club Ltd.	7-7551
Treasure Island Divers	9-4456
Undersea Photo Supply	7-4686

CAYMAN BRAC

Brac Aquatics, Ltd.	8-7429
Peter Hughes Dive Tiara	8-7313
Little Cayman Diver	8-7429
Brac Photographics	8-7340
Photo Tiara	8-7313

LITTLE CAYMAN

Pirate's Point Resort	8-4210
Southern Cross Club	8-3255
Sam McCoy's Diving Lodge	8-5663

ISLAND TRANSPORTATION

Ace-Hertz Rent-A-Car	9-2280
Avis Cico	9-2468
Budget Rent-A-Car	9-5605
Coconut Car Rental	9-4037
National Car Rental	9-4790
Tropicana Island Tours	9-4599

AIRLINES

Air Jamaica	9-2300
Cayman Airways	9-2311
Eastern Airlines	9-8700
Executive Air Services	9-7766
Northwest Airlines	9-2955

HOTELS AND CONDOS

GRAND CAYMAN CONDOS

Cayman Rent-A-Villas	7-4144
Christopher Columbus	7-4354
Coral Reef Apts.	7-4100
Dolphin Point Condos	9-3830
Grapetree Condos	9-5640
Harbour Heights Condos	7-4295
Hospitality World Ltd.	9-6485
Lime Tree Bay	7-4045
London House Condos	7-4060
Pan Cayman House	7-4002
Plantana Condominiums	7-4430
Plantation Village	9-4199
The Retreat Rum Point	7-9535
Silver Sands Apts.	9-3343
Spanish Bay Villas	9-3272
Tamarind Bay Condos	9-4593
Tarquynn Manor	7-4038
Turtle Beach Villas	9-6347
Victoria House	7-4233
Villas of the Galleon	7-4433
Villas Pappagallo	9-3568

GRAND CAYMAN HOTELS

Ambassadors Inn	9-7577
Beach Club Resort	9-2023
Caribbean Club	7-4099
Cayman Diving Lodge	7-7555
Cayman Islander Hotel	9-5528
Cayman Kai Resort	7-9518
Coconut Harbour	9-7025
Coral Caymanian	9-4054
Grand Pavilion Hotel	7-4666
Holiday Inn Cayman	7-4444
Hyatt Regency	9-1234
Island House Resort	9-3017
Royal Palms Hotel	9-2636
Spanish Cove Resort	9-3765
Sunset House	9-7111
Tortuga Club	7-7551
Treasure Island Resort	9-7777
Villa Caribe Resort	7-9636

CAYMAN BRAC

Brac Reef Beach Resort	8-7323
Buccaneer's Inn	8-7257
Tiara Beach Hotel	8-7313

LITTLE CAYMAN

Pirate's Point Resort	8-4210
Sam McCoy's Lodge	None
Southern Cross Club	8-3255

Twenty-nine years in diving hasn't left us wet behind the ears.

In 1958 Mrs. Hebe Connors added eight rooms to her cottage accommodating a handful of divers at what later became known as Sunset House.

From those humble beginnings we quickly grew.

Yet one thing that hasn't changed is our aim to give you as much fun out of the water as in.

We now have 42 rooms, a dive shop, boutique, restaurant and bar.

Everything you need to make your dive vacation complete is here at Sunset House. And unlike the big hotels, we cater specially for divers.

You can dive from one of our three dive boats. Or if you prefer, straight off our own coral shore.

It's no wonder that we're Grand Cayman's number one Dive Hotel — 29 years ago we were the only one.

This means that when it comes to looking after you, we're a giant stride ahead of everyone else.

So call now and make your reservation on 1-800 854 4767 or write PO Box 479, Grand Cayman, Cayman Is, BWI to find out about our special rates for novice and experienced divers. CIWOA

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Grand Cayman's Hotel for Divers by Divers

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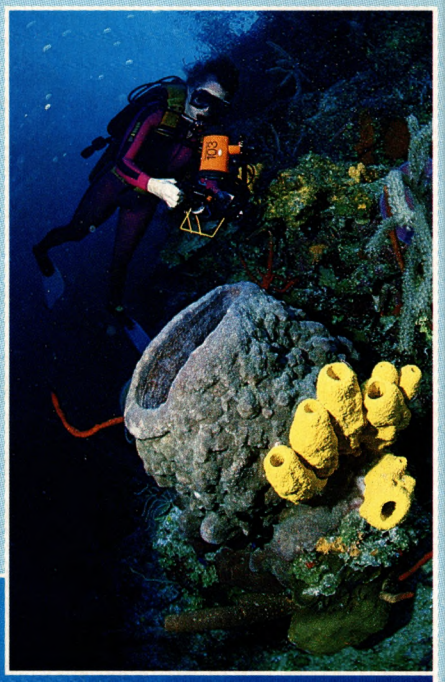
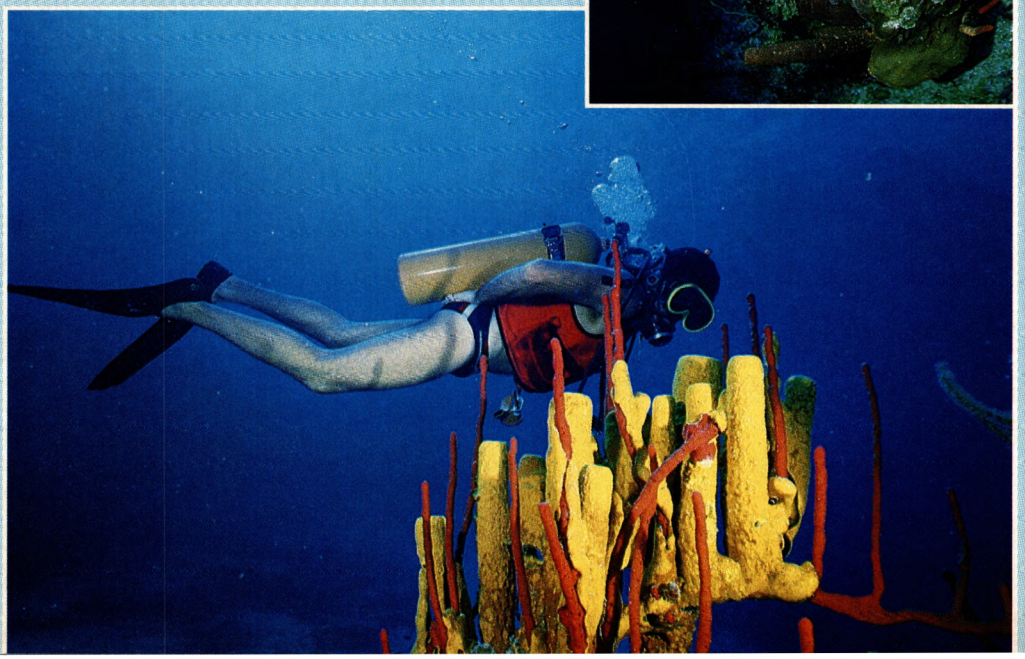
Buffet breakfast on Cayman Brac.

A semi-submersible reef explorer.

Sponges, Grand Cayman's North Wall.





Above: A giant anchor from a century old shipwreck off Cayman Brac. Cayman has a long and colorful nautical history. Right: This row of upright yellow tube sponges is representative of the unique sponge life on Cayman Brac's vertical walls. These colonial animals occur in a tremendous variety of fascinating shapes and colors.

CAYMAN

without going through an operator. The procedure is simple. You first dial 809 (area code for the Caribbean), then dial 94 (the routing code) and the local five digit number. For example, to call Sunset House directly from the U.S., you would dial (809) 949-7111.

TAXIS/CAR RENTALS

After you have cleared customs and immigration at the airport, you will want to get to your hotel as quickly as possible and settle in for your vacation. As you exit the air terminal building, you will see a line of taxis comprised of every type of vehicle imaginable, including large sedans, station wagons and vans. It is a welcome sight to visiting divers who are usually lugging bulky gear and camera equipment bags.

Once inside the cab and motoring toward your hotel, you may notice there is no meter ticking with the amount of your fare. Have no fear, you will not be charged any price that comes into the driver's mind. Cayman taxi drivers are very honest, as well as friendly. All of the cabbies belong to the Taxi Association, which has established taxi service rates from the airport to all the various hotels on the island. These are published once a year in a Rate Sheet and Fact Folder, distributed by the Department of Tourism and free upon request. The taxi ride to most hotels along Seven Mile Beach takes 15 to 25 minutes.

After settling in at your hotel, you may want to consider renting a car to explore the rest of the island. There are many rental agencies on Grand Cayman and most will deliver the car to your hotel.

To rent a vehicle in the Cayman Islands you must present a valid driver's license from your home country. The car rental agency will then issue you a temporary Visitor's Driving Permit. There is a small fee of $3 (U.S.) for this and you will be asked if you would like to purchase accident insurance with the car rental. Remember—in the Caymans, drive on the left side of the road!

Just about any type of vehicle you require is available, ranging from Jeeps to full sized vans. If you have a particular need in mind, such as air-conditioning or a station wagon, then it would be wise to telephone ahead to reserve the car of your choice. Also, keep in mind that each rental agency may have a different inventory of car models.

ELECTRIC POWER

The Cayman Islands power system is completely compatible with the U.S. standard of electricity—110 volt AC at 60 cycles. Electrical converters and outlet adapters are not required. Charging nickel cadmium battery packs, strobes and movie lights can be easily accomplished right in your hotel room. In addition, visitors may use their favorite electric shavers, hair dryers and radios.

CLIMATE

The Cayman Islands offer some of the finest weather in the Western Hemisphere. Because they are sufficiently distant from the North American continent, they are not subjected to the normal turbulence of winter storm fronts. The surrounding Caribbean Sea is a stabilizing force that maintains an even and constantly balmy climate. Winter temperatures range from 70-80°F. Summer temperatures run from 80-90°F. It never seems to get too hot or cold.

Packing for a trip to the Cayman Islands is relatively simple. Lightweight clothing is ideal. During the day, most visitors dress in shorts, sandals and either short sleeve cotton shirts or T-shirts. In the evening, lightweight slacks and a sport shirt are fine for men. A sport jacket is recommended for dining at some of the more formal gourmet restaurants on Grand Cayman.

Women generally wear shorts, sandals and T-shirts during the day. Lightweight

CAYMAN

cotton slacks or other sportswear is fine for the evening. For those planning to dine at a gourmet restaurant, a summer dress or cotton slacks and shirt will do quite well. Keep in mind that both the days and evenings are in the tropical temperature range and the humidity is probably much greater than back home.

The water temperature in the Cayman Islands is more constant than the air temperature. Winter waters range from 80-84°F; summer waters from 84-86°F. Casual divers frequently wear little more than a T-shirt and swim trunks. However, more experienced divers usually wear one-eighth inch full wetsuits or jacket tops because of longer or more frequent submersions. Wetsuits also protect divers from fire coral, hydroids, jellyfish and fire sponges. The latest rage is the use of one piece, lightweight Lycra body suits. These are colorful, easy to pack and still provide a certain degree of warmth and protection from fire coral and jellyfish.

GRAND CAYMAN

Among the three islands, Grand Cayman is the giant. It is the heart and soul of this British Colony. And, in recent years it has become the most prosperous island in the Caribbean—a veritable boom town of condos, hotels, restaurants and freeport shopping.

From a diver's point of view, Grand Cayman is the most progressive and rapidly evolving island in the dive resort business. The selection of services, facilities and experiences is almost staggering. For an island 22 miles long and 4 miles wide, Grand Cayman is really cooking. At last count, there were 20 different dive services, 3,346 scuba tanks and 48 dive boats on this one small island. Just about every hotel and major condo offers door-to-reef diving services.

Before going into the diving services, let's review the basics. Grand Cayman supports about 20,000 people, approximately 90 percent of the islands' population. It is the seat of government.

The two major industries on Grand Cayman are tourism and banking. And, the island excels in both fields. There are more than 450 banks. The tourism industry is an interesting blend of full service hotels, luxurious condominiums and inexpensive dive lodges. These accommodations are all in pretty much the same beachfront area. Frequently, they are next door to each other—sharing the same marvelous ocean view, splendid beaches and access to incredibly good coral reefs. Grand Cayman has something to offer everyone.

In addition to all its topside advantages and attractions, Grand Cayman sits on the doorstep of some of the best diving in the Caribbean. It is an island blessed with calm waters and fantastic vertical drop-offs less than one mile from shore. Underwater visibility of 100 to 150 feet is common and Cayman seas are often described as offering bathtub diving. The combination of shallow coral reefs, vertical walls, coral caves and wrecks provides visitors with a banquet of diverse diving experiences.

ISLAND GEOGRAPHY

In order to better understand Grand Cayman's overwhelming selection of hotel/condo accommodations, diving services and underwater attractions, we have divided Grand Cayman into four distinct geographic areas: George Town, Seven Mile Beach/West Bay, North Side and East End. Each area offers its own individual advantages.

George Town is the hub of shopping, sightseeing and dining services. Surprisingly, it also has good access for diving. Directly out from the town dock lies the *Balboa*, one of Grand Cayman's best known shipwreck dives. There are at least one-half dozen dive operations in the George Town region, including Surfside, Quabbin Dives, Bob Soto's, Eden Rock and so on. Just about every Saturday morning you will find the *Cayman Aggressor II* and *Cayman Aggressor III* tied up at the town dock as they take aboard a new group of passengers. George Town is also where you will find the headquarters for both submarine companies: Atlantis Tours, with its futuristic 28 passenger touring sub and RSL, with its two deep submersibles that go to 800 and 2,000 feet. The submarine wall dives are conducted daily, right in the George Town area.

Less than a mile south of town are two dedicated resort hotels that are regarded

BRITISH HERITAGE

The Cayman Islands have chosen to remain a British Crown Colony. Their government is a democracy of elected representatives and appointed officials. The governor is appointed by Her Majesty, the Queen of England.

There are no income, property, capital gains or estate taxes in the Cayman Islands. Government revenues are mostly derived from import duties, business licenses and work permit fees. The only taxes on visitors are the six percent hotel room tax and the airport departure tax of $7.50 per person.

International banking thrives in the Cayman Islands and there are strict secrecy laws that permit the names of depositors to remain totally confidential. In addition, thousands of companies incorporate on Cayman because there is no corporate tax. The Caymans are known as the "Switzerland of the Caribbean."

FASTEST GROWTH

Over the past five years, Grand Cayman has gained a worldwide reputation for superior diving, steady growth and continual improvement.

Two years ago, the island opened an ultra-modern $15 million airport terminal. Marked by innovative island architecture, this new passenger terminal can accommodate as many as five commercial jet airliners simultaneously. Two brand new luxury hotels have just opened and five other existing hotels have just finished major renovations and expansion of guest facilities. New restaurants are opening at the rate of one per month, broadening the selection of cuisine and dining ambiance.

The same sort of facility improvements and expansion have been going on among Grand Cayman's dive operators. New dive boats have been added by a number of the major operators. Several have expanded their services by establishing new satellite facilities at choice hotels and condominiums. Liveaboard services have grown to include four boats, cruising among and around Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Perhaps the most exciting news is the advent of two revolutionary submarine rides. These futuristic submersibles permit divers and tourists to visit the coral reefs while remaining completely dry.

GRAND CAYMAN ISLAND

LOCATION	– 495 miles south of Miami, 1220 miles SE of Houston
LENGTH	– 22 miles
WIDTH	– 4-8 miles
ELEVATION	– 60 feet/flat limestone island
CLIMATE	– Sub-tropical, balmy
TEMPERATURE	– Nov. to Apr. . . . 70/85°F May to Oct. . . . 80/90°F
ROADS	– Paved
POPULATION	– 20,000 residents
LANGUAGE	– English
GOVERNMENT	– British Crown Colony
CAPITAL	– George Town
BANKS	– 450, International offshore banking center
TIME ZONE	– Eastern Standard Time
ACCOMMODATIONS	– 20 hotels 50 condos/apartments
SHOPPING	– Island crafts, crystal, porcelain, watches, perfume, jewelry, liquor
TRANSPORTATION	– Taxis, rental car, tour buses
COMMUNICATIONS	– Radio Cayman, daily broadcast; Cayman Compass, daily newspaper
ELECTRICITY	– 110 volts AC/60 cycles
DEPARTURE TAX	– CI $6, U.S. $7.50

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as part of the George Town scene. Sunset House has been catering to divers for almost 30 years and has evolved into a cozy, modern dive resort with highly personalized service. Coconut Harbour is Grand Cayman's newest dive resort, constructed on the site of the old Casa Bertmar and South Cove resorts. This all-new facility is due to open this month or next. Both resorts are at the water's edge and offer superb shore diving and easy access to waiting dive boats.

Seven Mile Beach/West Bay is the Rivera of the Cayman Islands. This wide sweeping expanse of fine white sand beach is Grand Cayman's most valuable natural resource. In fact, one might conclude that Cayman's thriving tourist industry is based on this one spectacular beach. Also, many of Grand Cayman's most famous dive sites lie directly off this beach less than one-half mile offshore. It is easy diving in clear, calm waters with a 5-10 minute boat ride from the beach.

Seven Mile Beach is unquestionably hotel and condo row, serving as the heart of the action for visiting tourists. Lined up side by side are Grand Cayman's best known beach hotels such as Holiday Inn, Beach Club Resort and Royal Palms. Sprinkled in between are some of the better known diver's condos such as: Tarquynn Manor, Victoria House, London House, Villas of the Galleon, Pan Cayman House, Christopher Columbus and Plantation Village. As you might expect, these beachside facilities offer daily diving services by Grand Cayman's major dive operators—Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman, Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. and Surfside Watersports.

The newest additions to the Seven Mile Beach area include several super swank resort hotels. The Hyatt Regency is a world class resort that includes a Jack Nicklaus designed golf course, a French designed high speed catamaran and its own Nick's Aqua Sports diving services. The Grand Pavilion is an elegant French provincial type of resort complete with convention facilities, a courtyard pool and continental style restaurant. The Treasure Island Resort is at the south end of Seven Mile Beach and offers two swimming pools, the island's liveliest nightclub and a dive facility right on the hotel premises—Treasure Island Divers.

The North Side of the island is Grand Cayman's outer suburbs, a 45 minute drive from town. It is more remote, slower paced and more rural. There are only two hotels and one condo project in this region. Yet, the area from Rum Point to Cayman Kai provides access to some of the island's most spectacular diving—the North Wall.

East End is like stepping into a different world. It is at the opposite end of the island, 22 miles from George Town. The atmosphere and environment are much like Grand Cayman was 50 years ago. There are only two small hotels in the region, thus assuring the ultimate in privacy and tranquillity. Yet U/W, the East End offers some of Grand Cayman's most exciting diving. It is a wild frontier filled with big walls, big coral formations and big fish.

WHERE TO STAY

Grand Cayman offers an incredible selection of accommodations. There are 20 hotels, more than 50 different condominiums and guesthouses and three live-aboard dive boats. The variety is almost overwhelming, the selection sometimes difficult.

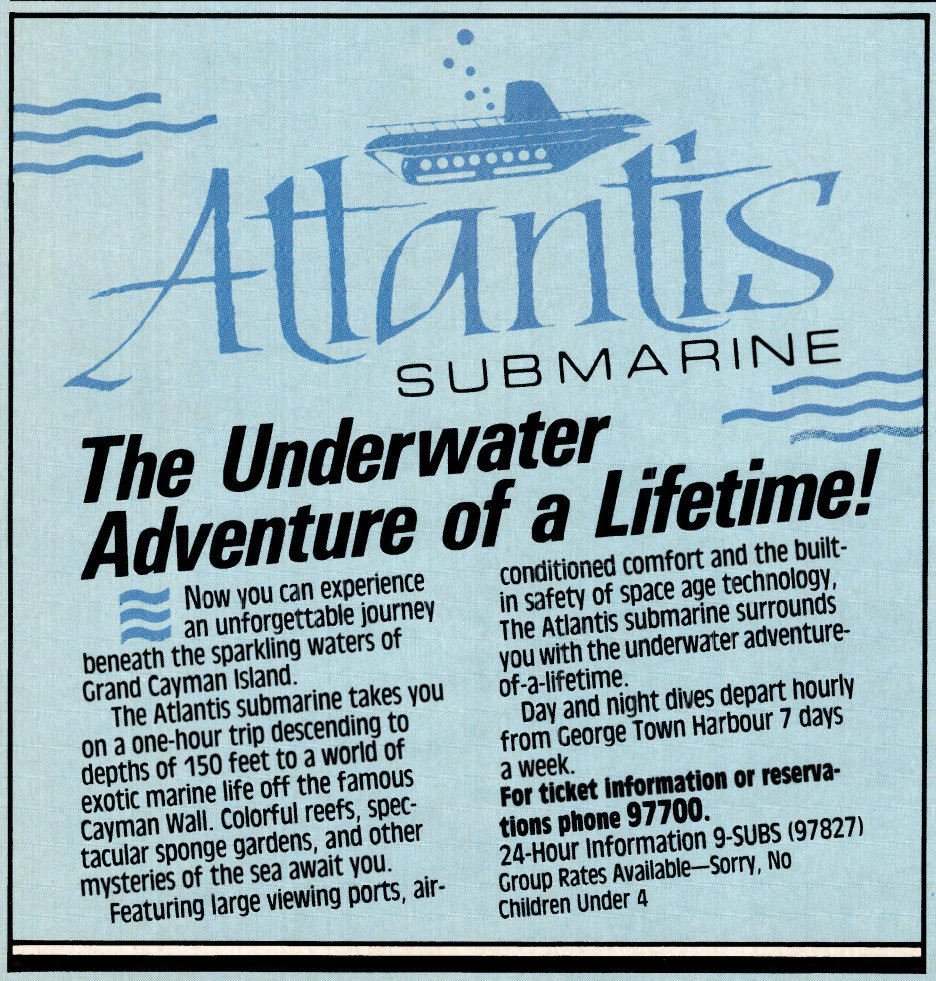
The best way to approach this task is to figure out what type of accommodation is best for your vacation needs and in which area of the island you wish to stay. The basic categories are: beach hotels, off-beach hotels, waterside hotels, beach condos, off-beach condos or live-aboard dive boats. Most of these facilities are connected in some way with one of the 20 dive operations on Grand Cayman.

HOTELS

Beach hotels are generally the most popular choice, but also fall into a higher price bracket. It is a case of supply and demand. The extra cost is certainly worth it if you desire a powder white sand beach, glorious sunsets and a wide variety of watersports. Most of these are on Seven Mile Beach. They include: Holiday Inn, Royal Palms, Hyatt Regency, Coral Caymanian, Treasure Island and Beach Club Resort. Not only are they right on the beach, but they are also centrally located to the island's best restaurants, nightclubs and shopping areas. Three of these hotels have dive shops on the premises and all five of them offer the convenience of having the dive boats pull right up on the beach to load guests.

The next category to consider is the waterside hotels, fronted by ironshore coral. This particular category is a favorite choice among serious divers. These hotels range in cost from economy to luxury. They include Sunset House, Coconut Harbour and Spanish Cove. While none of these properties has an extensive sand beach, each has a living coral reef directly in front. These inshore reefs range from 20 to 50 feet in depth and are loaded with macro creatures and pet fish. Each hotel has diving services on the premises.

There are several off-beach hotels noteworthy of consideration and they also span a wide spectrum of accommodations, services and costs. The Grand Pavilion is by far the most elegant. It is across the street from Seven Mile Beach



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and guests have access to a private beach facility. The Cayman Islander is more of a business style motel also across the street from Seven Mile Beach. Both offer cable television (via satellite dish) in the individual rooms. The Island House Resort is a Caymanian style hotel in the West Bay area and the Ambassador Inn is a modest hotel south of George Town out past Coconut Harbour.

There are four hotels that do not fit any of the above categories. They can be best described as outbound hotels since they are at the East End and North Side of the island. The Cayman Diving Lodge and the Tortuga Club are at the East End and offer direct access to Grand Cayman's barrier reef. Cayman Kai and Villa Caribe are on the North Side, at the doorstep of the world renowned North Wall.

CONDOS

Vacationing at a condo is an alternative to hotel accommodations and on Cayman it is a popular one. It is particularly desirable for large families or small groups. Condos are available with one, two, three or four bedrooms. Some of these are lavishly furnished and afford a luxury-style vacation. Since most of the condo units are owned by people who visit the island once or twice per year, these accommodations are offered on a rental basis by the day or week.

As with the hotels, Grand Cayman's condos can be separated into various categories. While space does not permit listing all of the condo properties, we can point out some of those that are popular with divers.

The beachfront condos include: Villas of the Galleon, Tarquynn Manor, London House, The Christopher Columbus, Victoria House, Pan Cayman House, Tamarind Bay, Silver Sands, Sundowner, Plantation Village, Coral Reef and Plantana. Waterside condos, fronted by coral ironshore, include: Spanish Bay Villas, Dolphin Point and Bonnie's Arch.

As with the hotels, most of condo facilities have connections with one of Grand Cayman's major dive operators. One more exception to the condo category is The Retreat, a new beachfront condo development at Rum Point on the North Wall. This facility has a new dive shop called Surfside Rum Point right next door.

RESTAURANTS

Grand Cayman's collection of restaurants can be segregated into a number of categories. The more formal restaurants, offering gourmet style dining, include: Le Diplomat (at Grand Pavilion), Caribbean Club, Chef Tell's Grand Old House and L'Escargot (at Treasure Island Resort).

Best In The Caymans

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4. Convenient rinse station
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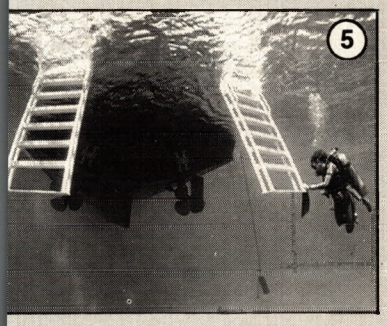

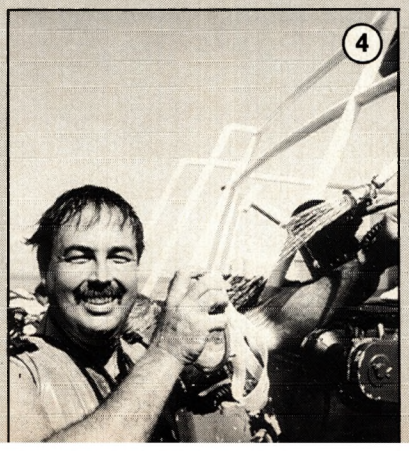

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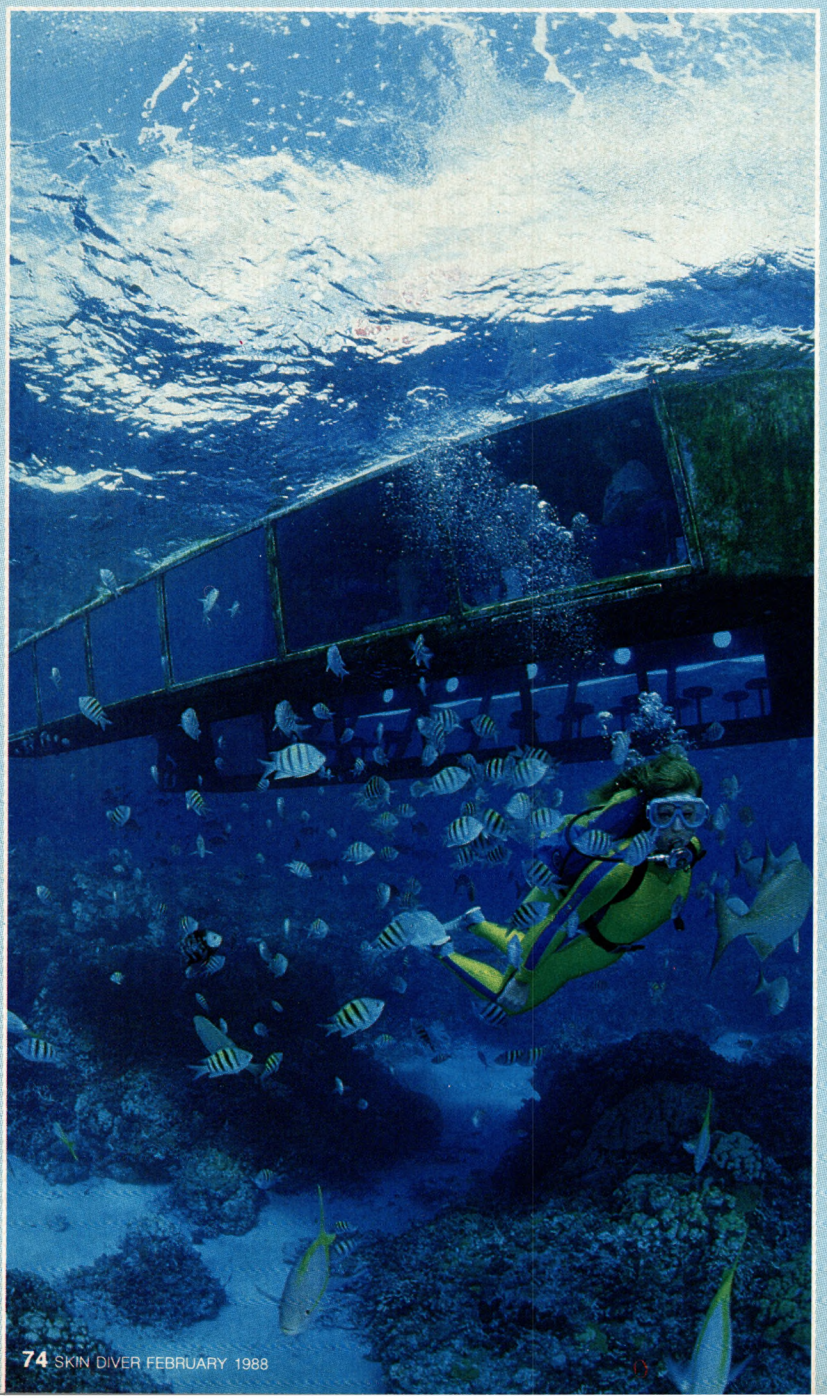
Many Cayman hotels feature swimming pools and ocean views.

Macro photography on Little Cayman Wall.

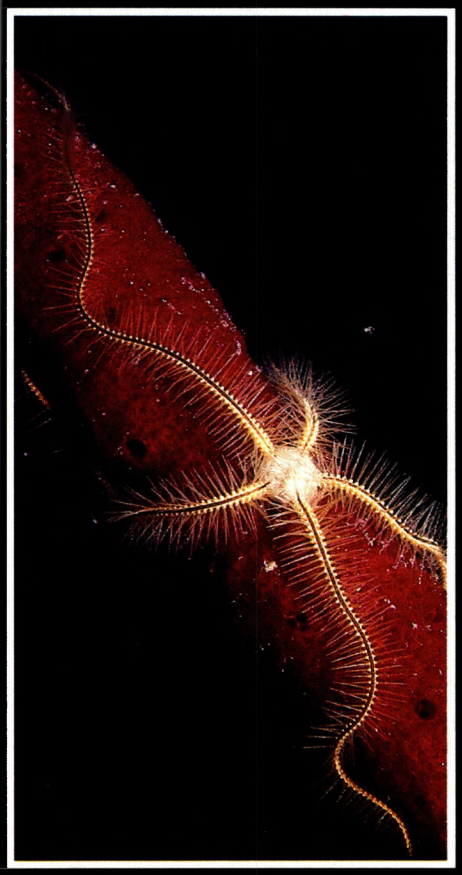


A dancing spider crab at Cayman Brac.

Barracuda feeding at Valley of the Rays.

Viewing the reef from the *Nautibus*.

E X P E R I E N C E



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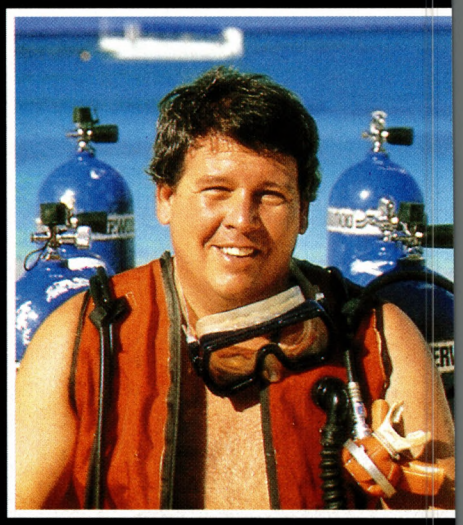
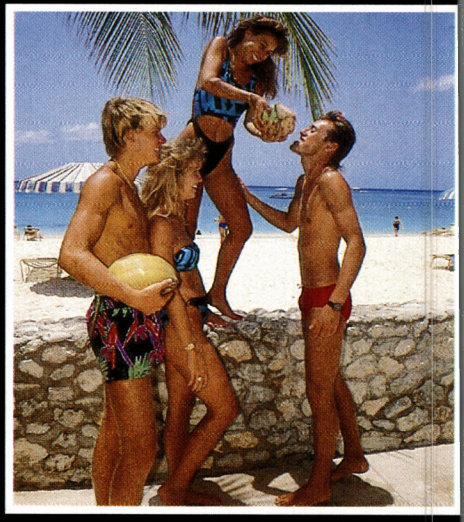


Don Foster

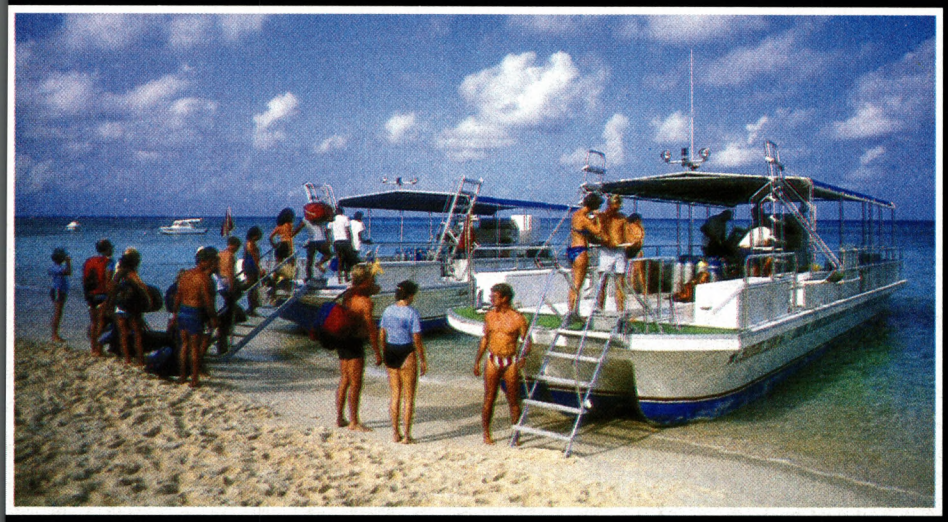
Underwater photography

'State of the Sport' dive boats

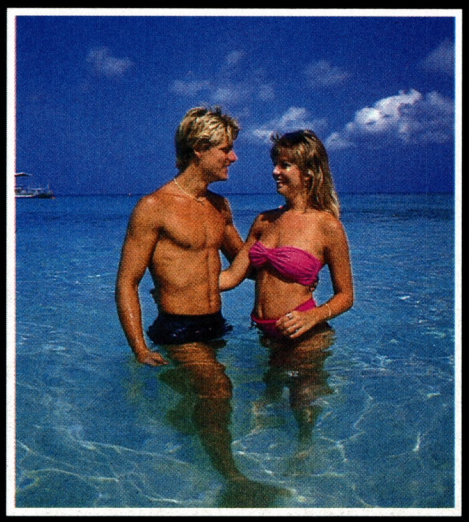
Kon Tiki party raft



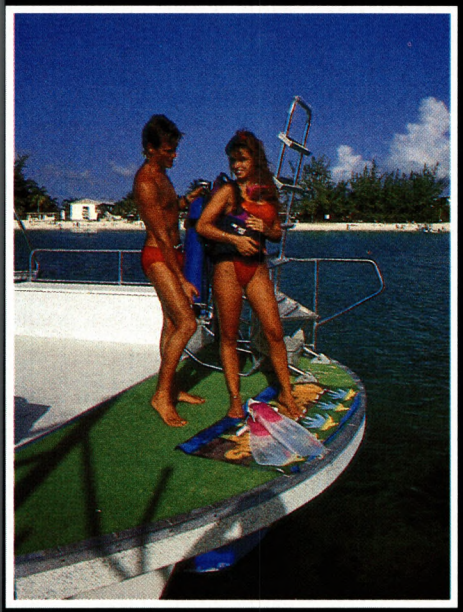
A refreshing coconut treat



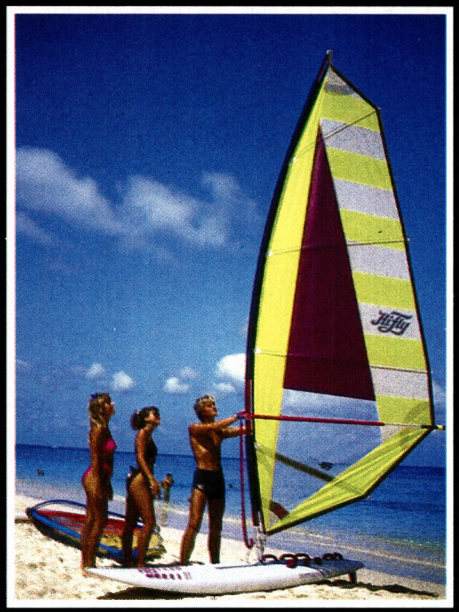
Easy access from beach to boats



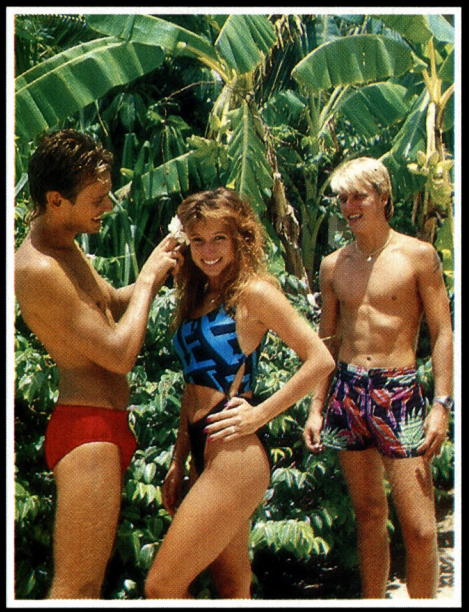
Crystal clear waters



Personalized service for each diver



Windsurfers and watersports



Lush, tropical landscape

At Don Foster's dive resorts you'll find a great choice of activities guaranteed to make your dive vacation one to remember....

Certification and resort courses, packages which include unlimited shore diving, a fleet of modern, comfortable dive boats, and a complete photo/video centre featuring underwater photography courses from beginner through advanced are just a few of the personalized services offered by this full service dive facility located just 20 feet from the sea. Dry locked storage, fresh water rinse tanks, top of the line rental gear, and a dedicated, professional staff help ensure that each dive goes smoothly from start to finish.

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Four different accommodation choices mean that your 'surface intervals' will be as enjoyable as your 'bottom time'.

The Royal Palms Hotel

Centrally located on Seven Mile Beach and just ten minutes from George Town, the Royal Palms is headquarters for Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman and Ocean Photo Centre. A fresh water pool, lighted tennis courts, restaurant and oceanside pool bar are some of the amenities which make this charming hotel the divers choice.

Hospitality World Villas

If you prefer the flexibility of a villa vacation, Don Foster's offers a choice of eight condominium complexes affiliated with Cayman's largest condo management company, Hospitality World. Each luxury apartment has a self contained kitchen; all bedrooms have accompanying baths. All villas are directly on Seven Mile Beach or have beach access and Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman provides complimentary beach or vehicle pick up from most of these properties.

Coconut Harbour

Especially 'geared' for divers, Grand Cayman's newest resort is the door-step to some of the Caribbean's most celebrated dive sites. The home of Waldo's Reef, Coconut Harbour is just minutes from George Town and boasts of its friendly 'dive club' atmosphere. Each unit has its own kitchenette, so 'dressing for dinner' is casual. Or, from appetizers & barbe-ques to Yellowbirds & Zombies, Coconut Bar & Grille can whip up your favourite Island concoction in minutes.

The Grand Pavilion Hotel

Elegance is the keynote at this impressive new hotel, Queen Elizabeth's home during her recent visit to Grand Cayman. The Grand Pavilion hotel, with access to Seven Mile Beach, offers luxury accommodations, a lushly landscaped outdoor pool and complimentary Terrace Bar with a waterfall garden bordered by a chic boutique providing everything from suntan lotion to the latest in tropical fashions. One of the Island's finest seafood restaurants, Le Diplomat, serves excellent cuisine in a casual atmosphere.

For further information contact:

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Grand Cayman, B.W.I.
809-949-7025

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photography by Paul Humann and Bradley Graham

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The mid-range restaurants, which are more casual, include: the West Bay Polo Club, Lobster Pot, Almond Tree, Sunsetter (at Sunset House), Dominque's, Garden Loggia (at the Hyatt Regency), DJ's Cafe, The Veranda Room (at Holiday Inn), Cayman Arms, Spanish Cove Restaurant and Royal Palms Restaurant.

There are a growing number of specialty restaurants that include: the Golden Pagoda (Chinese), Crow's Nest (seafood) Guido's Pizzeria (Italian), Santiago's (Mexican), Shanghai (Chinese), Ristorante Pappagallo (Italian) and Edoardos Trattoria (Italian).

Fast food restaurants include: Burger King, Pizza Hut, Big Daddy's Pizza, McDonald's Wholesome Bakery and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

DINNER CRUISES

One of the most romantic ways to dine in Grand Cayman is to take a sunset dinner cruise aboard one of five different vessels. The *Spirit of Ppalu* is a sleek 65 foot sailing catamaran that departs from the Hyatt Regency dock every evening for a gourmet dinner buffet complete with tablecloths and candles. You dine under the stars from 6:00-9:00 pm.

The *Kon Tiki* is a giant motorized party raft that departs from the cruise ship landing in George Town for dinner and dancing while cruising along Seven Mile Beach. Guests are entertained by a live band and limbo show while being served a buffet of seafood and other specialties. The cruise runs from 7:00-10:30 pm.

The 60 foot catamaran *Buccaneer* and the 101 foot schooner *Blackbeard's Lady* depart from the Holiday Inn beach for sunset sailing cruises along Seven Mile Beach while the crew serves rum punch, beer or lemonade with their fresh seafood or steak dinners.

The tall ship *Elsi* departs daily from the Treasure Island Resort for a romantic buffet dinner cruise with sails hoisted high.

Most of these same vessels also operate daytime snorkeling cruises with lunch served on board.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

While Grand Cayman may be no match for New York's Broadway, there is lively evening entertainment. This little island offers a surprising variety of evening spots for music, dancing and live stage entertainment. It is one of the reasons Grand Cayman has become so popular among young couples and those seeking a social atmosphere.

The best known nightclub on the island is the Wreck of the Ten Sails Lounge, directly off the lobby of the Holiday Inn. It holds about 200 people and serves drinks only. There is a live band and stage performance every night of the week except Sunday.

The main attraction at the Wreck of the Ten Sails Lounge is stage performer and singer, George Nowak, better known as Barefoot. He is a prolific song writer who has produced 14 record albums over the past 15 years. More than two dozen of his songs have been written about diving. Tunes such as "Barracuda" and "That's a Moray" have made Barefoot the scuba

GRAND CAYMAN DINING GUIDE

Restaurant	Phone	Type of Food	Location	Hours	Days Closed	Credit Cards
Almond Tree*	9-2893	Local	N. Church St.	6:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Tuesday	AE, MC, V**
Big Daddy's Pizza	9-8551	American	7 Mile Shops	5:00 pm - 11:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Big Daddy's Steak	9-8511	American	7 Mile Shops	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Borden's Pizza Hut	9-3462	Pizza	Morgan's Harb.	5:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Monday	None
Capt. Bryan's Seafood	9-6163	Seafood	N. Church St.	5:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	MC, V
Caribbean Club*	7-4099	Seafood	West Bay Rd.	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Cayman Arms	9-2661	Continental	George Town	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	None
Cayman Diving Lodge	7-7555	Local	East End	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Cook Rum	9-8670	Local	N. Church St.	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Mon./Sat.	AE, MC, V
Cracked Conch	9-5717	Seafood	Selkirk Plaza	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sunday	MC, V
Crow's Nest	9-6216	Seafood	S. Church St.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	MC, V
DJ's Cafe	7-4234	American	Coconut Place	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Dominique's	9-5747	American	George Town	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Tuesday	AE, MC, V
Edoardos Trattoria	7-4408	Italian	Coconut Place	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, D, MC, V
Garden Loggia Cafe	9-1234	Continental	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 11:00 pm	None	AE, D, MC, V
Golden Pagoda*	9-5475	Chinese	West Bay Rd.	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, D, MC, V
Grand Old House*	9-2020	Local	S. Church St.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Guido's Pizzeria	7-4600	Italian	West Bay Rd.	5:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	None
Island House Resort	9-3017	Local	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Jamin Smoke House	9-6003	Local	George Town	6:00 pm - 11:00 pm	None	None
La Fontaine	9-8484	Continental	George Town	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sunday	AE, MC, V
Le Diplomat*	7-4655	Continental	Grand Pavilion	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, D, MC, V
L'escargot*	9-7255	French	Treasure Island	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Liberty's	9-3226	Local	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Lighthouse Club	7-2047	Local	Breakers	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Lobster Pot*	9-2736	Local	George Town	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sunday	MC, V
Lone Star Grill	9-5575	American	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Lord Nelson's Pub	7-4595	British	West Bay Rd.	5:00 pm - 11:00 pm	None	None
Periwinkle Restaurant	9-2927	Seafood	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Ports of Call*	9-2231	Local	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Primavera Restaurant*	9-7574	Italian	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Monday	AE, MC, V
Ristorante Pappagallo*	9-1119	Italian	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Royal Palms	9-2636	Local	West Bay Rd.	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Santiago's	9-8580	Mexican	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Shanghai	9-5886	Chinese	Crewe Rd.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	None
Spanish Cove	9-3765	Continental	West Bay Rd.	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Sunsetter	9-7111	Local	Sunset House	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	None	AE, D, MC, V
Veranda Room	7-4444	American	Holiday Inn	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	None	AE, D, MC, V
Villa Caribe Hotel	7-9636	Continental	North Side	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	AE, MC, V
Welly's Cool Spot*	9-2541	Local	George Town	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	None	None
West Bay Polo Club	7-4581	Continental	West Bay Rd.	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sunday	AE, MC, V

*Reservations recommended
**AE=American Express, MC=MasterCard, V=Visa, D=Diners Club

CAYMAN

diver's troubadour. What Don Ho is to Hawaii, Barefoot is to Grand Cayman!

The newest nightspot on Grand Cayman is the flashy, 350 seat Silver's Nightclub right off the lobby of the Treasure Island Resort. Designed by country and western electronics experts from Nashville, this ultra modern stage facility is wired for professional audio and television productions. The nightclub provides a perfect setting for lively bands and appearances by many country and western stars. Among the owners of the Treasure Island Resort and Silver's are such famous performers as: Larry Gatlin, Conway Twitty, Ronny Milsap, Deborah Allen, Helen Cornelius, Jerry Reed and Earl Thomas Connley.

SHOPPING

Grand Cayman's freeport shopping is quite unique. You will find many items that are simply unobtainable in other parts of the Caribbean. For example, Grand Cayman artisans excel in the design and production of black coral jewelry. You can shop for pendants, necklaces, pins, bracelets, sculptures and even dinnerware—all crafted from rare pieces of black coral. One jewelry store at the airport displays a magnificent lobster—sculpted out of black coral and gold—valued at $6,000!

Grand Cayman's shopping opportunities are not limited to jewelry. Other unique items include: Wedgewood china; handblown glass statues from Italy; beautifully cut lead crystal from all parts of Europe; and delicate porcelain statues. There is also a good selection of imported French perfumes, fine imported liquors, cameras, watches and electronic equipment. Boutiques display the latest in tropical sportswear and hard-to-find jewelry. And then of course, there is the T-shirt craze. Grand Cayman offers literally hundreds of unique T-shirts—most of which are related to diving.

SIGHTSEEING

If you are searching for something to do after the morning dives, Grand Cayman will not disappoint you. This island is loaded with things to see, places to go and things to do. It is an ideal choice for the vacationing family with diverse interests. Nondivers will not be bored.

There are a dozen different sightseeing tour operators that offer all types of island tours lasting two hours, four hours or all day. Take your pick.

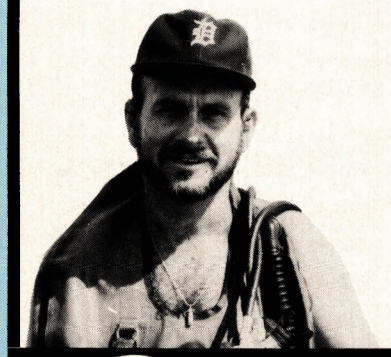
And, in George Town there are two new museums that graphically depict the history of the Cayman Islands, plus fascinating details about Caribbean pirates and Spanish treasure ships. The newest of these is the Cayman Maritime and Treasure Museum, designed and constructed by treasure hunter, Captain Herbert Humphreys, Jr. It contains many items from the wreck of the *Maravilla*, a Spanish treasure galleon believed to be carrying a $1.6 billion cargo in gold and silver. At the museum, visitors have an opportunity to actually heft a gold treasure bar!

The McKee Treasure Museum is right on Harbour Drive in George Town. It contains many of the treasures salvaged by treasure hunter Art McKee. These include items from the 1715 Spanish Plate Fleet, the 1733 fleet, the *Atocha*, the *Maravilla* and other Spanish treasure ships.

If you would like to try something special, you might consider a North Sound boat trip. This is much like a picnic at sea; it includes snorkeling and a seafood lunch. These trips generally depart at 9:00 am and return by 3:30 pm. One of the best known on Grand Cayman is operated by Captain Crosby Ebanks and is known as Crosby's Watersports.

SUBSURFACE SIGHTSEEING

The *Sub-See Explorer II* is one of a new breed of reef touring vessels that al-



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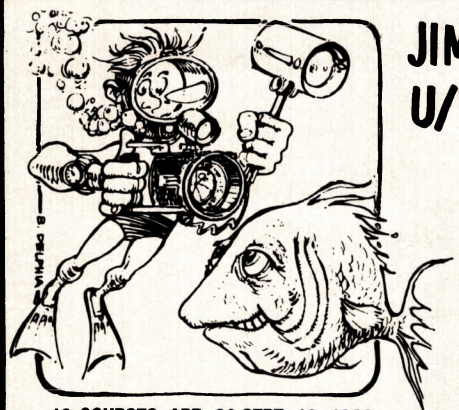

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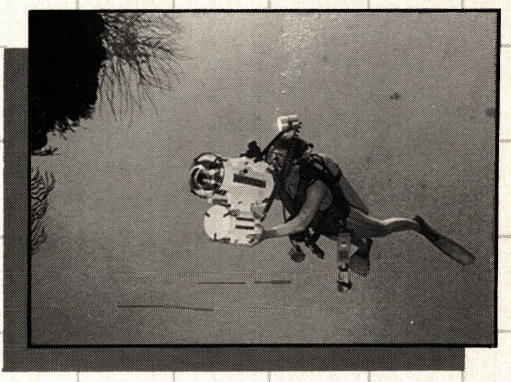

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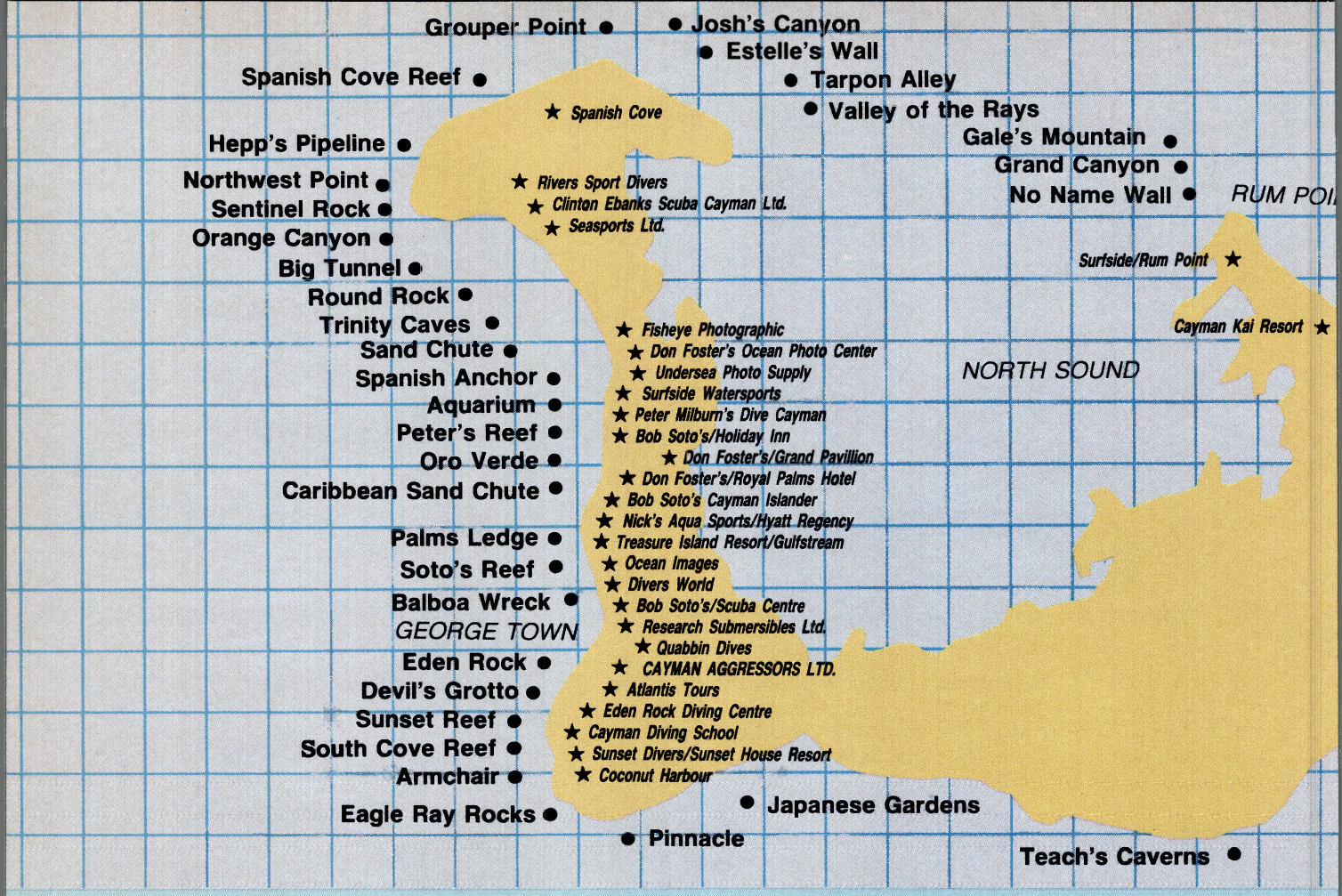

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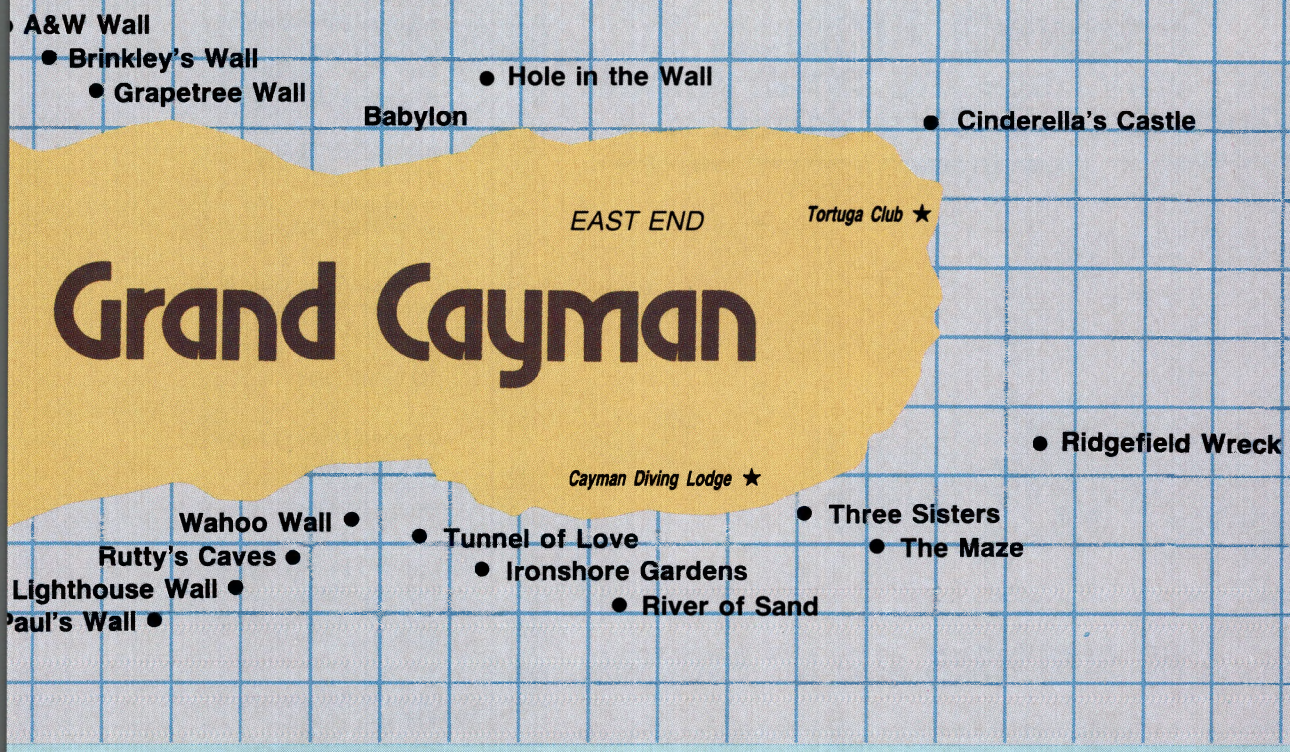
SDM's Guide To Cayman Dive Sites



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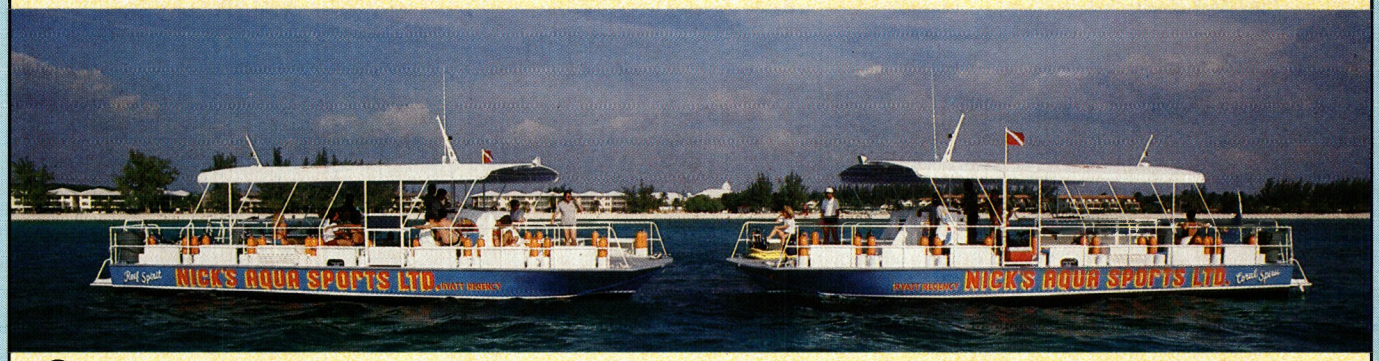

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lows you to view coral reefs and fish through large side windows. This 50 foot long craft floats on the surface, but its hull is a spacious undersea observatory. Guests are seated comfortably four feet below the surface while enjoying a two hour cruise of shallow coral reefs. Highlights include a fascinating fish feeding session by divers. The *Sub-See* is operated by Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman and departs from the Royal Palms Hotel.

The *Nautibus* is Grand Cayman's newest and most exotic looking reef touring vessel. It is a 46 foot French designed catamaran with a very futuristic wheelhouse. Each of the two *Nautibus* hulls is a spacious undersea observatory with staggered seating and large viewing windows. Guests are seated in air-conditioned comfort while viewing the coral reefs and watching the fish feeding show.

The *Nautibus* is operated by Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. and departs from the Cayman Maritime and Treasure Museum.

SUBMARINE RIDES

Another form of sightseeing is a submarine ride! This island has the largest fleet of public submarines in the world today. Unlike the amusement park simulators, these are the real thing. Originally designed for serious scientific and commercial work, these durable steel or aluminum machines can actually seal hatches, make dives to a variety of depths and maneuver among the coral reefs with the aid of electric motors. Now nondiving visitors can make deepwater observations of Grand Cayman's reefs and shipwrecks while remaining perfectly dry at surface pressure.

Perhaps the most impressive member of Grand Cayman's burgeoning submarine fleet is the giant 28 passenger *Atlantis*. Designed and built in Vancouver, Canada, this futuristic submersible is the first of its kind in the world. It has been described by the inventor as a touring sub, constructed specifically for underwater sightseeing.

The *Atlantis* is 50 feet long, weighs 50 tons and features 14 side viewing ports that are 24 inches in diameter. Passengers sit side by side, with two people sharing a port. The interior of the sub is roomy, with six and one-half feet of head room, complete air-conditioning and stereo music. The vessel cost $3 million and took two years to complete.

Based at George Town Harbour, Atlantis Submarine Tours plans to operate several trips daily. They will schedule both day and night dives, providing Grand Cayman visitors with a new form of nighttime entertainment. The sub is certified to a depth of 150 feet. The *Atlan-*

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tis cruises among the shallow coral reefs at the edge of the drop-off before descending deeper. The high point of the trip is a visit to the wreck of the *Carrie Lee*, an inter-island cargo ship lying in 120 feet of water. On night dives, the sub turns on a bank of 12, 500 watt underwater lamps that illuminate the entire reef.

Those who are a bit more adventurous can select a ride on one of Research Submersibles Limited's (RSL) deep submersibles. This is a small company that offers a high voltage experience for non-divers and divers alike. Based at George Town Harbour (next to the Burger King), RSL operates two Perry deep submersibles, formerly used for oceanographic exploration. Each will carry two passengers plus a pilot.

RSL offers deep dives to 800 feet along the face of Grand Cayman's vertical drop-off. Divers have their first opportunity to go over the wall and personally see what lies beyond the 130 foot safe scuba limit. The sub follows the vertical face of the wall to a depth of 550 feet, where it changes abruptly to a 45 degree slope. The sub continues down to a maximum of 800 feet, where passengers can observe the bizarre sights of many benthic creatures and corals.

One of the most exciting dives is a visit to the *Kirk Pride*, the intact wreck of an inter-island freighter. It is perched on the wall at 800 feet, held in place by a giant rock formation. Other fascinating sights include two foot tall crinoids, 15 pound lobsters, arrowcrabs as big as basketballs and deepwater sharks.

RSL schedules four dives daily for each submersible and is often booked in advance. Each dive lasts approximately one hour. Guests receive a personalized explanation of the sub's functions throughout the dive, plus a highly informative narrative on the marine life.

DIVE SERVICES

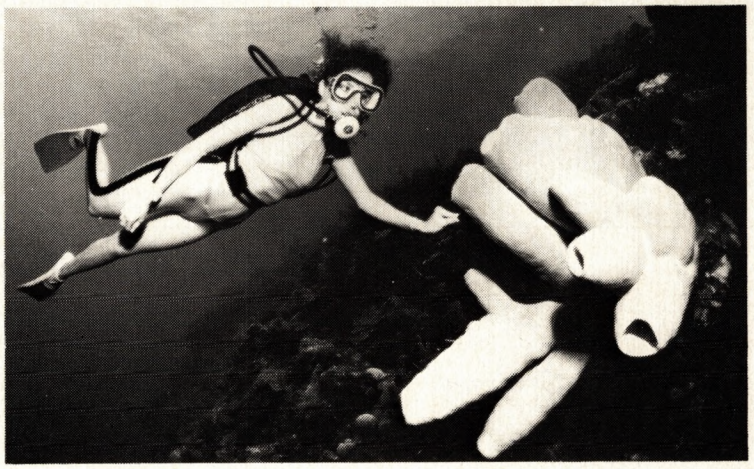
The dive operators of the Cayman Islands (including Little Cayman and the Brac) are regarded as some of the most progressive and safety conscious in the Caribbean. They have continuously reinvested their profits in better boats, upgraded equipment and improved services. Because of the large volume of divers who pass through Cayman, these operators have learned to be highly efficient, very courteous and extremely skilled in conducting dives. The majority of Cayman's dive operators have formed an organization known as the Cayman Islands Watersports Operators Association. It is dedicated to safety, education and conservation of the marine environment. It has done a marvelous job of upgrading safety standards and training divemasters. Each dive boat carries a full complement of emergency and safety equipment including: oxygen supply, first aid kit, tilt board, VHF radio, dive tables, float line, dive flag and at least one flotation device for each person on board. Boats involved in night diving carry marker lights for above and underwater.

Cayman divemasters are required to have training and certification as divemasters, assistant instructors or instructors. They also receive training in first aid, rescue and CPR.

PHOTO AND VIDEO SERVICES

As with Cayman's other diver support services, a booming business has developed in underwater photo and video services. There are at least 10 different operations on Grand Cayman alone that offer a variety of different options including: camera rentals, photo equipment sales, underwater still and video training and, of course, film processing.

In the area of underwater photography, you can now obtain 6 to 24 hour E-6 color slide processing at Don Foster's Ocean Photo, Fisheye Photographic Services, Spanish Cove, Sunset House and aboard the two *Cayman Aggressor*s. These same facilities offer an excellent selection of rental cameras, strobes, lenses and other photo accessories. Photo equipment sales are available at the same locations, plus Divers World and Undersea Photo Supply. There are also several photo labs in George Town that process color print film and you can obtain snapshots within 24 hours.



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CAYMAN

Underwater photography classes are a big activity at the Sunset House Resort. This is where Jim and Cathy Church conduct their one week long underwater photo courses from April through September. Underwater photo instruction is also a popular program aboard the *Cayman Aggressor*, with many top photo pros conducting week long Nikonos Courses. You can also obtain photo classes at Fisheye Photographic and Don Foster's Ocean Photo. They will teach you how to photograph the stingrays, giant jewfish and other creatures.

The newest rage in Grand Cayman is underwater video. Just about everyone is offering some form of service. The new 8mm video format has made camcorders and housings extremely compact and easy to operate. And, the quality of the video images is simply amazing!

You can rent a video camcorder and housing to shoot your own tape or you can have an underwater video pro shoot a tape of you and your friends/family, touring the reef or wreck. Become an instant TV star! The prices are very reasonable and most video services will convert the 8mm videotape to standard one-half inch VHS or Beta while adding background music and stock footage. A few places such as Fisheye Photographic actually conduct underwater video classes where you learn the secrets of good video production.

LIVE-ABOARD DIVE BOATS

Another unique aspect of Cayman Islands diving is its wide selection of live-aboard boats. There are four splendid vessels: the 110 foot *Cayman Aggressor II*, the 110 foot *Cayman Aggressor III*, the 65 foot *Little Cayman Diver* and the 65 foot *Gulfstream*. All offer extended range dive cruises including regular visits to Little Cayman's spectacular drop-offs.

A typical live-aboard can offer as many as four dives per day plus night dives almost every evening. While most island visitors are satisfied with a couple of morning dives and perhaps a third in the afternoon, there are those who are far more energetic and ambitious. They prefer to make four or five dives per day. This type of vacation is frequently described as advanced dive travel because it is specifically designed for the serious enthusiast who is in good physical condition. While the cost of a one week live-aboard cruise may be a bit more than an island hotel package, the extra dives are certainly worth the added cost.

There are, of course, many additional advantages to live-aboards. The most important single factor is the opportunity to dive the more remote areas of the Cayman Islands. For example, the *Cayman Aggressors* (both II and III) devote a great deal of time to exploration of the fabulous North Wall, toward the remote eastern end of the island. Here the wall often begins at 35 feet and the marine life is spectacularly lush. Other virgin areas frequented by the *Aggressors* include the East End barrier reef, the South Side Wall and Little Cayman.

The *Little Cayman Diver* generally operates out of Cayman Brac and spends much of its time cruising the breathtaking walls of Little Cayman. Most of its crew members are from the Brac and their knowledge of this area is superb.

Grand Cayman's newest live-aboard is the 65 foot *Gulfstream*, which operates out of the Treasure Island Resort. This vessel has spacious cabins and can accommodate up to 16 passengers. The *Gulfstream* is a new experiment in live-aboard concepts. Divers can book either two or three day trips aboard the boat and spend the remainder of their time at the Treasure Island Resort. This combination vacation may be appealing to those who wish to sample a live-aboard without committing to an entire week to it.

GRAND CAYMAN DIVE SITES

Grand Cayman offers the greatest selection of catalogued dive sites. Hundreds of different ones have been discovered, charted and photographed during this island's 25 year history of sport diving development. Names such as Trinity Caves and Orange Canyon are legendary among traveling divers.

Many of the best sites are directly off Seven Mile Beach, 5-15 minutes from shore. It is no accident that Grand Cayman's hotels and condos are concentrated in this area, for Seven Mile Beach offers the calmest waters and some of the best visibility. It is not uncommon for the ocean surface to be as flat as a mill pond and for underwater visibility to range 100 feet or more. In many spots, the wall is less than one-quarter mile offshore.

In addition to the drop-offs, Grand Cayman offers an excellent variety of medium and shallow depth reef diving. These

PHOTO AND VIDEO SERVICES

GRAND CAYMAN

Divers World Ltd. of Cayman Seven Mile Beach Shops West Bay Road, P.O. Box 917 Grand Cayman, B.W.I. (809) 949-8128	Video sales and service, video rentals, strobe rentals, repairs
Don Foster's Ocean Photo Royal Palms Hotel West Bay Road Grand Cayman, B.W.I. (809) 949-5679	E-6 color film processing, U/W photo sales/service/rentals, video sales/service/rentals, U/W photo training
Fisheye Photographic Services Trafalgar Place West Bay Road, P.O. Box 2123 Grand Cayman, B.W.I. (809) 947-4209	E-6 color film processing, U/W photo sales/service/rentals/instruction, video sales/service/rentals/instruction
Ocean Images North Church St. P.O. Box 1801 Grand Cayman, B.W.I. (809) 949-2022	Photo Buddy, Video Buddy
Undersea Photo & Dive Supply Treasure Island Resort West Bay Road, P.O. Box 1551G Grand Cayman, B.W.I. (809) 947-4686	Video sales/service/rentals, U/W sales/service/rentals

CAYMAN BRAC

Brac Photographics P.O. Box 185, Cayman Brac Cayman Islands, B.W.I. (809) 948-7340	E-6 color film processing, rental cameras, videos. Video services, photo instruction
Photo Tiara P.O. Box 238, Cayman Brac Cayman Islands, B.W.I. (809) 948-7313	E-6 color film processing, U/W photo service/rentals/training. Video service/rentals/training

spots are closer to shore, with slightly less visibility, but often much more fish life. In fact, most of the fish feeding stations are on the shallow and medium depth reefs because this allows divers increased bottom time.

Grand Cayman also has several good shipwrecks that are really fun to dive. The sunken hulks lie in shallow to medium depths and are loaded with fish and macro creatures. They are excellent sites for underwater photography and many commercial movies have been shot here.

Another aspect of Grand Cayman diving is the shore diving available at about one dozen locations. This has grown in popularity and is encouraged by a number of the hotels and scuba operators.

The diving around Grand Cayman can be divided into four geographic areas. Each of these is adjacent to a certain group of hotels and dive operators that provide convenient, quick accessibility.

Beginning with the George Town area and moving counterclockwise around the island, the four geographic diving areas are: 1) George Town; 2) Seven Mile Beach/West Bay; 3) North Wall; and 4) East End. The following is a brief synopsis of the underwater attractions that can be found in each.

GEORGE TOWN AREA

Soto's Reef is on the north side of George Town Harbour, directly offshore the Lobster Pot and Bob Soto's Diving Headquarters. This is a very shallow dive, with coral heads less than six feet below the surface. It is a perfect dive for snorkelers. For scuba divers, this reef offers many tunnels and coral chambers to explore. The caves often contain small schools of baitfish.

The remains of the 375 foot ***Balboa*** are scattered over several acres of George Town Harbour ocean bottom. Only 200 yards off the town pier, this site has played host to hundreds of thousands of divers. Sunk during a hurricane in 1932, this wreck has a good deal of marine life growing on it, which has attracted great numbers of fish. Depths are 25-35 feet. It is an excellent night dive.

Eden Rock is on the south side of George Town Harbour, directly out from the Eden Rock Diving Center. This site is only 140 feet from shore and is easily accessible to the snorkeler or diver. Eden Rock is honeycombed with caves and tunnels ranging in depth from 15 to 35 feet. It is also an excellent night dive.

Devil's Grotto is just south of Eden Rock and separated from it by a sand gully. This reef is similar to Eden Rock but features a very long tunnel that opens into a large grotto with a cathedral shaped exit. At times this cave is inhabited by baitfish schools that open and close like a curtain to allow divers to pass.

Waldo's Reef is directly off South Cove. The depth here ranges from 30-50 feet and the area is loaded with coral for-

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CAYMAN ISLANDS DIVE SERVICES

GRAND CAYMAN

Operation	Owner or Manager	Local Phone	Tanks	Dive Boats	Length/Capacity	Daily Trips	No. Dives	Film Process	Video	Night Dives	Address
Bob Soto's Diving, Ltd.	Ron Kipp Kathie Kipp	9-2022	360/72s 100/80s 12/50s	*Holiday Diver* *Barefoot Diver* *Paradise Diver* *Gypsy Diver* *Glass Bottom Diver* *Reef Diver* *Island Diver* *Discover Diver*	52′ drop-front/20 44′ drop-front/20 42′ V-hull/17 42′ drop-front/20 42′ drop-front/16 37′ drop-front/20 36′ drop-front/16 32′ drop-front/16	9:00 am 2:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	No	Yes	Sat. Tue.	Bob Soto's Diving P.O. Box 1801 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-2022
Cayman Aggressor Fleet	Wayne Hasson Anne Davis	9-5551	100/80s	*Cayman Aggressor II* *Cayman Aggressor III*	110′ live-aboard/18 110′ live-aboard/18	Anytime Anytime	Unlimited Unlimited	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Every night	Cayman Aggressor P.O. Box 99 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-5551
Cayman Diving Lodge	Ray Plain Judy Plain	7-7555	45/80s	*Deep Six* *Barracuda*	42′ custom/20 32′ custom/12	9:00 am	2 tanks	No	No	O.R.*	Cayman Diving Lodge P.O. Box 11/East End Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 947-7555
Cayman Kai Resort	Carson Ganci	7-9556	80/72s	*Kai Diver* *Pirate Diver*	20′ flattop/16 34′ flattop/18	9:30 am 2:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	No	Yes	O.R.	Cayman Kai Resort P.O. Box 1112 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 947-9556
Clint Ebanks Scuba Cayman	Clint Ebanks	9-3873	160/72s	*Queen Angel*	46′ custom/25	8:30 am 1:30 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	No	Yes	O.R.	Clint Ebanks' Scuba Cayman P.O. Box 746 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-3873
Coconut Harbour	Don Foster Jil Foster	9-7025	100/80s	*Coconut Diver* *Undersea Diver*	40′ monohull/20 36′ flattop/20	8:30 am 2:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	Yes	Yes	O.R.	Coconut Harbour P.O. Box 151 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-7025
Don Foster's Dive Cayman	Don Foster Jil Foster	9-5679	300/80s	*Adventure Diver* *Cayman Sun* *Cayman Sea* *Cayman Star*	26′ flattop/10 52′ flattop/20 52′ flattop/20 52′ flattop/20	8:30 am 2:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	Yes	Yes	Mon. Thur.	Don Foster's Dive Cayman P.O. Box 151 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-5697
Eden Rock Diving Center	Stuart Freeman	9-7243	89/80s 8/92s 7/72s 6/50s	Shore Dives Only	———	Anytime	Unlimited	No	No	O.R.	Eden Rock Diving Ctr. P.O. Box 1907 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-7243
Fisheye Photographic	Martin Sutton Ed Uditis	7-4209	90/80s	*F-Stop* *Focus*	26′ flattop/14 23′ seacraft/6	8:30 am 1:30 pm 1:30 pm	2 tanks 1 tank 2 tanks	Yes	Yes	Tue. Thur.	Fisheye Photographic P.O. Box 2123 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 947-4209
Gulfstream Charters, Inc.	Buddy Brown Arthle Evans David Nicholson	9-4456	38/80s 4/63s	*Gulfstream*	65′ live-aboard/16	Anytime	Unlimited	Yes	Yes	Every night	Gulfstream Charters P.O. Box 409 Islamorada, FL (800) 223-4707
Nick's Aqua Sports	Adrien Briggs Nelson Goodel	9-8745	168/80s 12/63s	*Coral Spirit* *Reef Spirit*	46′ flattop/20 46′ flattop/20	9:15 am 2:15 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	Yes	Yes	Thur.	Nick's Aqua Sports P.O. Box 1698 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-8745
Peter Milburn's Dive Cayman	Peter Milburn	7-4341	120/72s	*Champs I* *Champs II* *Champs III*	28′ flattop/10 32′ flattop/12 36′ flattop/16	8:30 am 1:30 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	No	No	O.R.	Peter Milburn's Dive Cayman P.O. Box 596 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 947-4341

Quabbin Dives Cayman, Ltd.	Teri Evans	9-5597	170/80s	*Quabbin Diver* *Quabbin D-Two*	36′ custom/14 45′ custom/24	8:00 am 1:30 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	No	No	O.R.	Quabbin Dives P.O. Box 157 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-5597
Rivers Sport Divers	Wallace Rivers Lynn Rivers	9-1181	50 alum. Mixed	*Blue Horizons*	34′ flattop/14	8:30 am 1:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	No	No	O.R.	Rivers Sport Divers P.O. Box 442 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-1181
Seasports, Ltd.	Butch Sjostrom	9-3965	62 alum.	*Cayman Lady*	24′ custom/7	10:00 am 1:30 pm 3:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank 1 tank	No	No	O.R.	Seasports, Ltd. P.O. Box 1516 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-3965
Spanish Cove	Scott Roe	7-9598	350/80s 20/50s	*North Wall Diver* *Shuttle Diver* *Treasure Diver*	38′ V-hull/20 34′ flattop/16 40′ V-hull/24	9:00 am 2:30 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	Yes	Yes	Sun. Tue. Thur.	Spanish Cove P.O. Box 1014 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 947-9598
Sunset Divers	Adrien Briggs Bonnie Briggs	9-7111	375/80s	*Eagle Ray* *Leopard Ray* *Sun Diver*	36′ custom/20 36′ custom/20 32′ custom/14	9:00 am	2 tanks	Yes	Yes	O.R.	Sunset Divers P.O. Box 479 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-7111
Surfside Watersports	Joe Donahue Bob Carter Billie Gill	7-4224	260/80s 20/72s	*Surf Diver* *Galleon Diver* *Down Under* *Dolphin I* *Rum Point Runner*	36′ V-hull/15 38′ flattop/20 42′ V-hull/20 25′ custom/10 36′ V-hull/20	9:00 am 2:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	No	Yes	Wed. Sun.	Surfside Watersports P.O. Box 891 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 947-4224
The Tortuga Club	Frank Conolly	7-7551	40/80s	*Tortuga Diver*	34′ custom/15	9:30 am 2:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	No	No	O.R.	The Tortuga Club P.O. Box 496 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 947-7551
Treasure Island Divers	Arthle Evans Ashton Ebanks David Nicholson	9-4456	200/72s	*Twitty Bird Diver* *Gatlin Diver* *Milsap Diver*	45′ custom/25 45′ custom/25 45′ custom/25	8:00 am 1:30 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	Yes	Yes	Tue. Thur.	Treasure Island Divers P.O. Box 1817 Grand Cayman, BWI (809) 949-4456
CAYMAN BRAC											
Brac Aquatics	Winston McDermot	8-7429	350/80s	*Reef Runner* *Titus* *Bogue Runner*	55′ custom/25 45′ custom/20 32′ custom/12	9:00 am 3:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	Yes	Yes	Tue. Thur. Sat.	Brac Aquatics, Ltd. P.O. Box 89 Cayman Brac Cayman Islands, BWI (809) 948-7429
Peter Hughes Dive Tiara	Peter Hughes Craig Burns	8-7313	236/80s 6/50s	*Brac Fever* *Cayman Fever* *Tiara Fever* *Ocean Fever* *Island Fever*	40′ custom/20 40′ custom/20 40′ custom/20 40′ custom/20 36′ custom/18	9:00 am 2:30 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	Yes	Yes	Mon. Wed. Fri.	Peter Hughes Dive Tiara P.O. Box 238 Cayman Brac Cayman Islands, BWI (809) 948-7313
Little Cayman Diver	Winston McDermot	8-7429	32/80s	*Little Cayman Diver*	65′ live-aboard/16	Anytime	Unlimited	No	No	Every night	Little Cayman Diver P.O. Box 89 Cayman Brac Cayman Islands, BWI (809) 948-7429
LITTLE CAYMAN											
Pirate's Point Resort	Gladys Howard	8-4210	36/80s	*Porpoise I* *Porpoise II*	18′ inflatable/8 24′ flattop/12	9:30 am 2:30 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	Yes	Yes	O.R.	Pirate's Point Little Cayman Cayman Islands, BWI (809) 948-4210
Sam McCoy's Diving Lodge	Sam McCoy	none	36/80s	*Cayman AK*	30′ Pacemaker/8 20′ fiberglass/4	9:00 am	2 tanks	No	No	O.R.	Sam McCoy's Diving Lodge 14 Rochambeau Ave. Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 438-5663
Southern Cross Club	Mike and Donna Emmanuel	8-3255	60/72s	*Miss Southern Cross* *Outrage*	31′ custom V-hull/12 18′ Whaler/4	9:30 am 3:00 pm	2 tanks 1 tank	No	No	O.R.	Southern Cross Club South Hole Sound Little Cayman Cayman Islands, BWI (809) 948-3255

*O.R. = On Request

CAYMAN

mations, fans and sponges. This reef is best known for the resident six foot green moray eel, Waldo. Other tame fish include a giant jewfish, a very large barracuda and several of Waldo's relatives.

Just south of Sunset House is an interesting dive site named **Armchair**. In 60-70 feet of water there is a giant barrel sponge contoured like a big overstuffed armchair, hence the name.

Eagle Ray Rock is a very beautiful wall dive on the corner of the southwest point on the western side. This location was named after the many elegant eagle rays frequently seen cruising along this section of the drop-off.

Pinnacle Rock is an extremely unusual pillar coral formation that is 80 feet tall and 35 feet in diameter. It is cylindrical in shape and rises from the floor of the ravine. The top of the pinnacle is flat and slightly overgrown, giving it an almost mushroom-like appearance.

Archway is a favorite shallow coral dive that consists of an interesting overhang in 45 feet of water. This spot is around the corner from George Town, on the south side of the island, directly off the wreck of the *Palace*.

***Palace* Wall** is an impressive vertical wall lying farther offshore Archway. This drop-off begins at 80 feet and is well known for its gorgonian fans and pinnacle formations.

WEST BAY/SEVEN MILE BEACH AREA

The north end of Seven Mile Beach is very popular and almost all of the dive operators run daily trips to this area. One of the favorites is **Orange Canyon**, so named because of its brilliant array of colorful orange elephant ear sponges. The best diving here is at 75 to 90 feet. A giant coral head sits on the edge of the wall with two ravines forming canyons on either side and trailing all the way back at 60 feet. Along both these ravines are many different sized orange sponges, engulfed in gorgonians and seafans.

Sentinel Rock is a unique pinnacle, jutting out into blue water at the top of the wall at 90 feet. It is an extremely photogenic drop-off with lovely tube sponges and giant gorgonian fans.

Big Tunnel is an extremely impressive drop-off with a giant coral archway. The top is at 105 feet, the bottom at 120. It is a sheer wall approximately 300 feet in length and carved by many winding channels and canyons. There is a large coral promontory at the south end and the coral archway is at the north end. While there are many smaller tunnels, crevices and overhangs, the real thrill of this dive is the arch. You approach this formation from the landward side and encounter the very top of the arch at 105 feet. It is immense in size, measuring at least 30-40 feet in diameter, and exits on the very face of the drop-off.

Big Dipper is a drop-off just south of Big Tunnel. The top is at 55 feet, where a large coral rampart juts out from the face of the wall and helps form a small coral valley. This drop-off takes its name from a gigantic basket sponge found at 105 feet. The sponge is in the coral valley and surrounded by black gorgonian fans and many hard coral formations.

Probably the most popular and best known wall dive off Grand Cayman is **Trinity Caves**. The name is somewhat of a misnomer as the caves are actually long narrow coral canyons that eventually turn into tunnels as they approach the edge of the drop-off. There are a total of four coral canyons in this area that provide a fascinating deepsea trail into the coral wilderness. There are two comparatively long tunnels that run almost parallel to each other. They begin in approximately 60 feet and slope gradually to 100 feet where they exit together on the face of the wall. Just south of the twin tunnels is a slightly shorter and more meandering

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tunnel. It also leads to the drop-off, but exits into a deep coral crevice directly in front of a towering pinnacle. Just to the right of this tunnel's exit is another, much shorter tunnel that curves in U-shape fashion around a second coral pinnacle.

About one-half mile south of Trinity Caves is a dive site known as **Sand Chute**. It starts in 60 feet of water, where you discover a 300 foot wide river of sand. It slopes gradually to 120 feet, where the sand flow has narrowed. At this point, the slope becomes steeper, slanting on a 45 degree angle, and continues to plunge to more than 350 feet. The white sand slope looks like a snow ski run with mountains of coral formations bordering the sides. These formations are at least 100 feet long.

Spanish Anchor is a shallow site, used as a second morning dive. The reef lies in 50 feet of water and was named for an old anchor (believed to be Spanish) embedded in the coral. There are a lot of tame fish on this reef, including several species of angelfish. Adjacent to Spanish Anchor is **Aquarium**, another shallow dive, about 45-50 feet deep. Here, the fish are so tame you almost have to push them away from your facemask.

The ***Oro Verde*** lies in 50 feet of water, about one-quarter mile off the beach of Le Club Cayman. Deliberately sunk in 1980 by the Cayman government and dive operators, this shipwreck is one of the most popular dives off Cayman. The 184 foot ship lies on her starboard side, completely intact, and has become a refuge for all types of marine life. Schools of yellowtail snappers and sergeant majors swarm around divers. French angelfish approach divers without fear.

Royal Palms Ledge lies off the Royal Palms Hotel in 35-55 feet of water. The top has tightly clustered coral heads providing protection for small fish. The underside of the ledge curves sharply back, going down to a sandy channel at 55 feet. The dive is best known for the abundance of tiny invertebrates that cling to the walls of the ledge.

Hepp's Pipeline is off the northwest shore, directly out from the Turtle Farm. The reef has a strangely shaped undercut coral ledge 30-65 feet down. It runs parallel to the shore for hundreds of yards and contains many fascinating sponges including bright green finger, buff brown elephant ear, cup and azure formations.

Hepp's Pipeline features a unique basket sponge that has grown in the shape of a large peacock chair or highback throne. It has been very descriptively named **Neptune's Throne**. The sponge is tucked under a small coral ledge in 50 feet of water and faces the open sea.

Spanish Cove Reef is about 100 yards from Spanish Cove and is often dived from shore by the guests staying at the resort. The top of the reef is at 25 feet and there is a small drop-off that goes down to 55. This is a small vertical wall sometimes called Little Drop-Off.

NORTH WALL

The drop-offs along the north shore of Grand Cayman from Conch Point to Rum Point are reputed to be the island's finest. Dive operators from the Seven Mile Beach area frequently make a weekly dive trip around the northwest point, visiting the drop-offs along the western edge of North Sound.

Grouper Point is a beautiful drop-off at the eastern end of the North Wall. The top begins at 65 feet. There is a forked coral ravine in the shape of a narrow V with a tall, thin promontory jutting out into the deep blue ocean. The sides of this unusual formation are vertical and drop from 70 to 100 feet, where they meet a white sand bottom. A small tunnel at the base of this formation cuts completely through the point of the promontory and runs from one coral ravine to the other.

Josh's Canyon is a lovely section of the North Wall, approximately one mile west of the main channel. This is a popular wall dive and typical of the dozen or more drop-off sites to be found along the North Wall. There is a series of high coral cliffs and deepwater coral ravines.

Tarpon Alley is an exciting site where a school of more than 100 giant tarpon resides in a narrow coral canyon at the top of the wall. Divers can swim through

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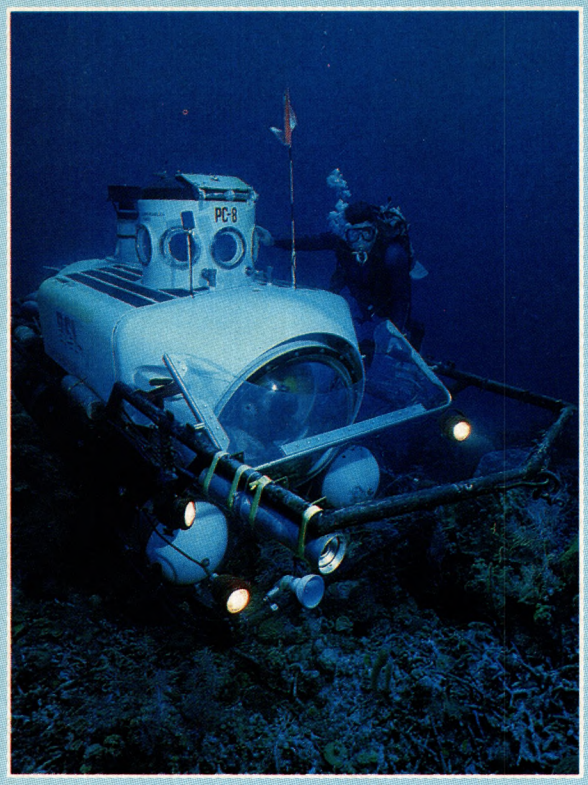
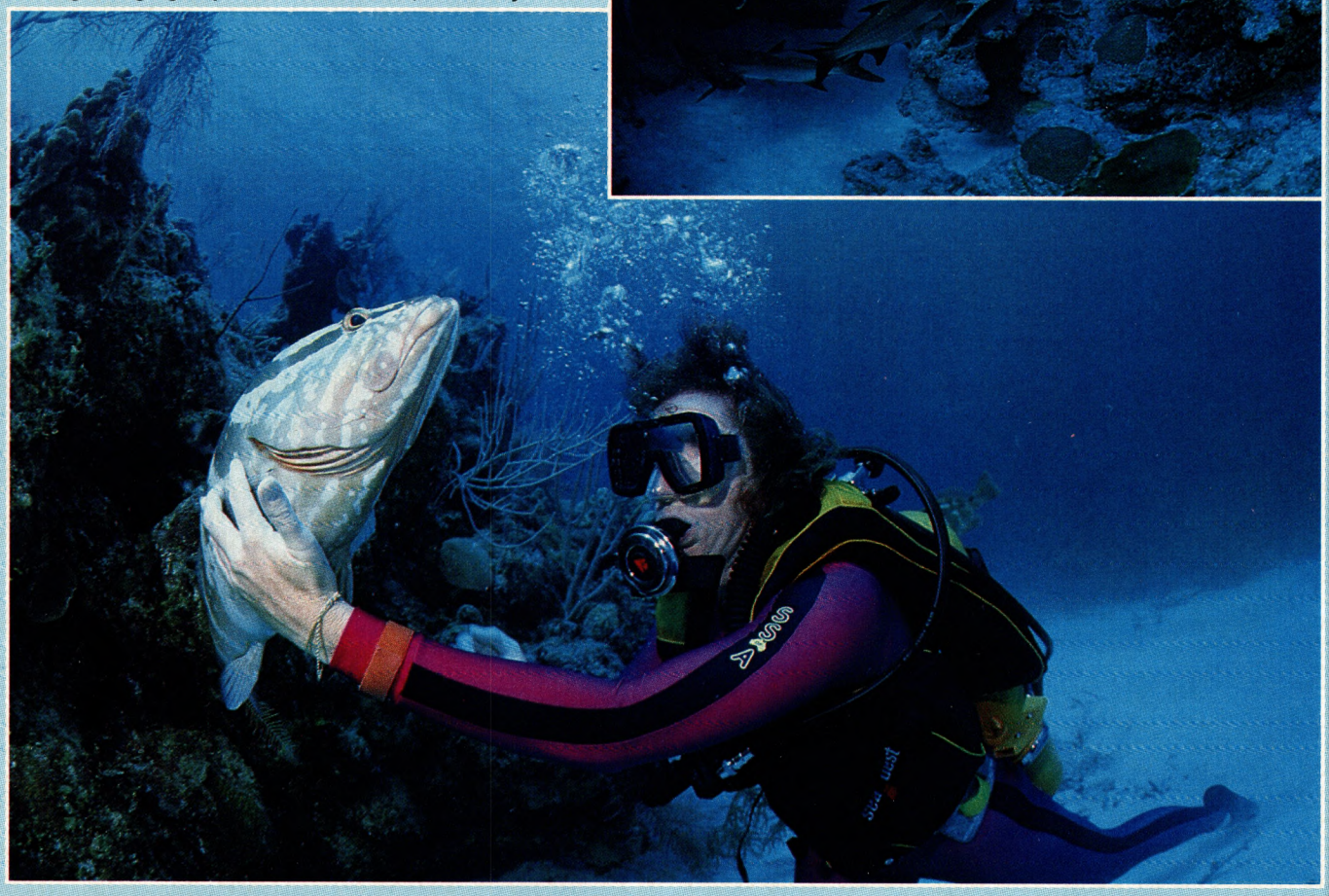


An RSL deep submersible begins a dive to 800 feet.

A school of large, silvery tarpon at Tarpon Alley.

Petting a large grouper at Jackson Wall, Little Cayman.



CAYMAN

the canyon, almost touching the tarpon as they weave back and forth.

Valley of the Rays is a large, flat, sandy area adjacent to Tarpon Alley where dozens of giant stingrays rest on the sand bottom. Divers who move carefully can usually get within a few feet of the rays without disturbing them.

Grand Canyon is a coral wall that almost defies description. This immense formation literally dwarfs the diver and vividly portrays the grandeur of the North Wall drop-offs.

No Name Wall is straight out from Rum Point Channel, at the eastern end of North Sound. The top of the drop-off begins in 55 feet of water with a sharply sloping wall. The upper edge is uniquely marked by a series of four parallel coral ravines. They begin at 55 feet and slope to 90 feet where they go over the edge of the wall.

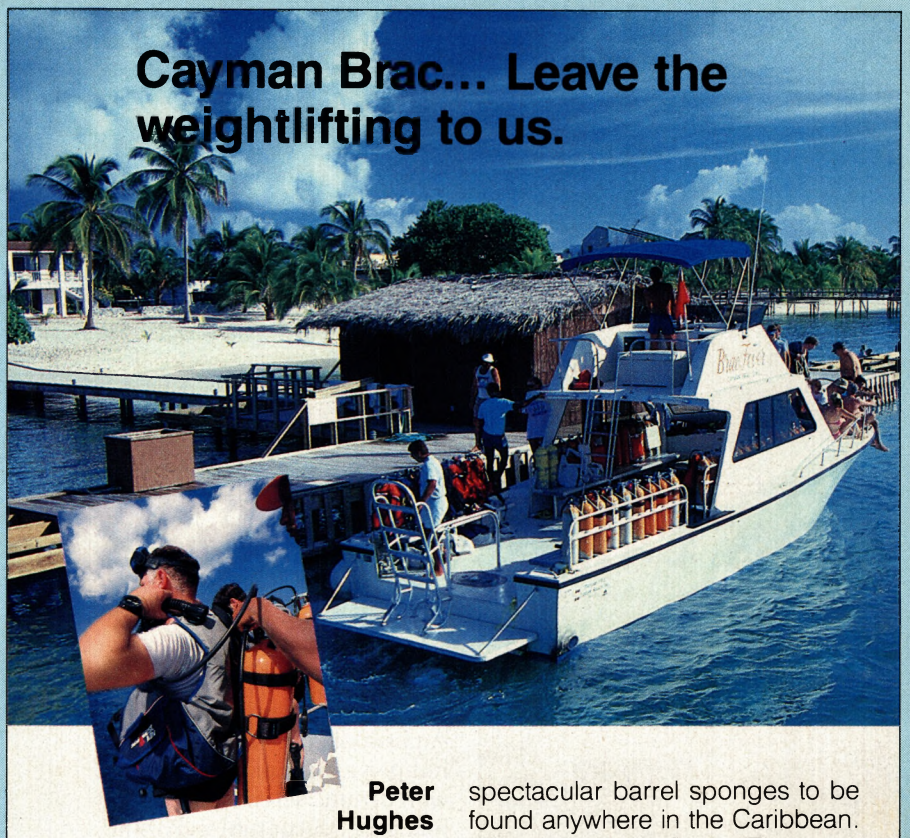
Neptune's Gallery is a lovely drop-off two miles east of Cayman Kai Resort. Its main feature is a deep narrow canyon that cuts through the top of the reef and exits onto the vertical face of the drop-off. The top begins at 60 feet where there is a long crack measuring three feet in width. Descending into the narrow crevice one encounters a deep but narrow coral canyon. The walls are 50 feet high and the floor of this passageway is paved with pure white sand. The canyon winds around several corners and zig-zags its way toward the edge of the drop-off. The coral reef above has actually grown together, forming a narrow winding tunnel. The walls of the canyon are adorned with green and red finger sponges, small basket sponges, gorgonian fans and black coral trees. Near the end, the canyon splits into two separate passageways with a large coral formation in the center.

Gale's Mountain is another extraordinary coral formation perched on the edge of the drop-off. In fact, it is the only formation of its kind known to exist off Grand Cayman and is worth seeing. It is approximately 250 feet across at the base, rises to within 40 feet of the surface and is flattened at the top. This mammoth formation is flanked by two coral canyons that spill over the edge of the wall and help to give it an awe-inspiring appearance.

EAST END AREA

The East End drop-offs are not well known to most Cayman visitors because of their remote location, 25 miles from George Town. These reefs are not dived by the operators along Seven Mile Beach and visitors must therefore journey to the opposite end of the island to experience unique adventure.

Iron Shore Gardens is a spectacular



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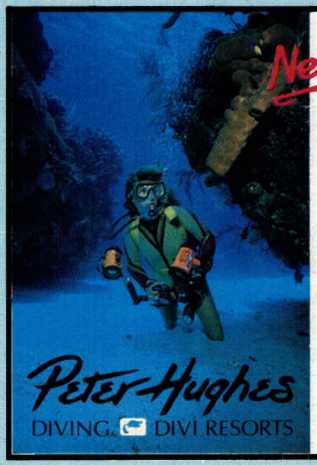

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forest of elkhorn coral in 50 feet of water a short distance from the Cayman Diving Lodge. There are numerous caves and tunnels for exploring. At times tarpon are seen here, as well as adult parrotfish.

Lost Wally is an impressive wall dive in 70 feet that features a giant green and yellow tube sponge. The face of this wall is painted with red encrusting sponges and many other colorful formations.

Three Sisters is a favorite dive at East End. These are pinnacles not more than 50 yards apart, right on the edge of the drop-off that begins in 50 to 60 feet of water. They are about 70 feet in diameter and almost 90 feet tall. The three pinnacles have bright red sponges growing on their sides.

One of the more popular dives of the East End is **Tunnel of Love**. West of the Cayman Diving Lodge, it features a long tunnel that runs from the top of the reef to the outer face of the wall. The tunnel starts at 60 feet and slopes downward to 125 feet where it exits on the vertical face of the drop-off. It is approximately 12 feet in diameter and about 75 feet long.

River of Sand is one of those giant sand ravines that looks like an underwater glacier. It begins at a depth of 45 feet, with a field of perfectly white sand more than 100 feet wide. The river slants downward on a 45 degree angle and narrows into a funnel shaped canyon only 10 feet wide at the 100 foot level. At this point it spills over a lip and out onto the vertical face of a drop-off. The coral reef on both sides of the sand river is loaded with marine life including anemones, coral shrimp, arrowcrabs and hundreds of colorful sponges.

The Maze is just east of the Cayman Diving Lodge and takes only five minutes to reach by boat. It is a remarkable drop-off featuring an intricate series of intertwining coral canyons that are very narrow and fairly deep. The top of this drop-off begins at 55 feet and is a chain of mountainous coral hills. These are segmented by a number of very narrow, winding crevices, barely wide enough for one diver to pass. Some of these canyons are 60-80 feet deep and more than 100 feet long. They seem to meander in aimless directions, with many canyons connecting to others. The walls of these narrow passageways are often lined with black coral trees, deepsea gorgonian fans and tube sponges.

Directly off the Tortuga Club, **Cinderella's Castle** features many tunnels and ravines in which to wander. Much of the reef structure here is formed like a mesa; there are vast sections in just 30 feet of water that fall off abruptly to a sandy or coral rubble bottom 60 feet down. The reef has many tunnels, gullies and caverns. Divers have shallow reefs and semi-deep caves and tunnels all in one dive. Large parrotfish and groupers can be found in the passageways.

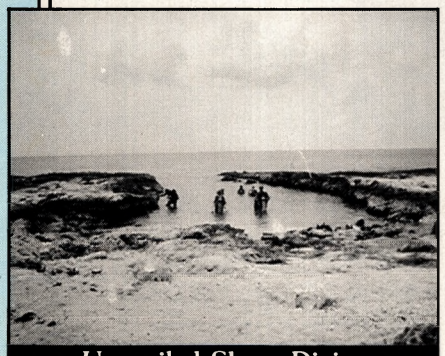
CAYMAN BRAC

The sister islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman lie 70 to 80 miles northeast of Grand Cayman. They are part of the same geologic formation, just a couple of mountain peaks away. The two are almost twins, similar in size and shape.

Cayman Brac is sort of a string-bean shaped island 12 miles long and two miles wide. The west end is flat and almost at sea level, while the east end rises to a 140 foot limestone bluff that falls away into the ocean. The population of Cayman Brac is approximately 1,100. The pace is really laid-back and the island folks are especially friendly.

Cayman Brac is very much the way Grand Cayman used to be some 20 years ago. It is an island of old fashion Caribbean charm, with few hotels and almost virgin reefs. Until recently, things were pretty slow on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, but all this has changed. The advent of an extended jet runway on Cayman Brac has opened this island to future development and provided a con-

THE CARIBBEAN ESCAPE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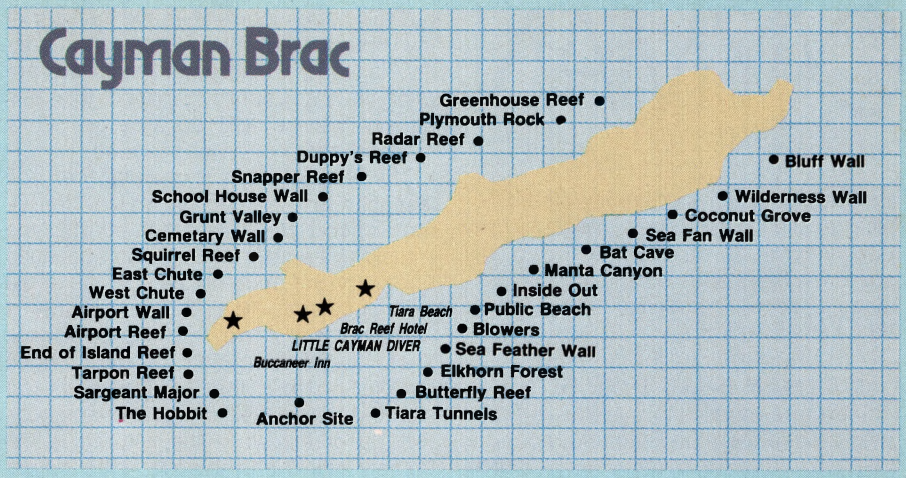
venient stepping stone to nearby Little Cayman. It would appear that these two islands are about to be discovered by divers and stand perched on the threshold of diving development.

HOTELS

Cayman Brac presently has three hotels, two of which are new or completely renovated. The Tiara Beach Resort is part of the Divi Hotel chain, with the same type of expert management and services as the Flamingo Beach Resort on Bonaire. It has recently undergone a complete refurbishing and expansion and now has 66 air-conditioned rooms. It is regarded as one of the best little dive resorts in the Cayman Islands.

CAYMAN BRAC

LOCATION	– 86 miles NE of Grand Cayman, one mile east of Little Cayman
LENGTH	– 12 miles
WIDTH	– 2 miles
ELEVATION	– 140 feet, bluff at east end
ROADS	– Paved
POPULATION	– 1,100
CAPITAL	– Stake Bay
AIRPORT	– Paved, recently extended
AIR SERVICE	– Daily from Grand Cayman twice weekly from Miami
LODGING	– Three hotels
SHOPPING	– Local island crafts



Peter Hughes has just finished the design and construction of an expanded dive facility—Dive Tiara—on the hotel grounds. The facility includes a new dive shop, a large boat pier and five very fast boats. In addition, Hughes has installed a photo center complete with E-6 color film processing, camera rentals, U/W photo classes and video services. Photo Tiara is being managed by photo pros Chris and Donna McLaughlin.

The Brac Reef Beach Resort is a relatively new facility with 40 rooms. This two story hotel features a freshwater pool, air-conditioning, beach bar and tennis. It is close to the Brac marina, with convenient loading for the boats. The Brac Reef Hotel is serviced by Winston McDermott's Brac Aquatics. This dive operation has been in business for many years and consists of three dive boats and a staff of experienced Brac divemasters. Brac Photographics, operated by Ed Beattie, provides: E-6 color film processing, camera rentals, underwater photo instruction and underwater video services.

Brac Aquatics also operates the *Little Cayman Diver*, a 65 foot live-aboard boat that spends most of its time exploring the reefs and walls of Little Cayman.

The Buccaneer's Inn was Cayman Brac's first dive resort. On the north side of the island, it offers the advantage of

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excellent shore diving directly off the hotel premises. Under new management, Buccanner's Inn is presently being upgraded with modern equipment and better services. Diving services are conducted by Brac Aquatics.

CAYMAN BRAC DIVE SITES

There are more than 30 excellent dive sites around Cayman Brac and more are being discovered every year. **Anchor Site** is an exciting wall dive that begins at 65 feet and drops vertically to at least 1,000. The face of this wall is unusually craggy and deeply etched with many canyons, crevices and small tunnels.

The major attraction of this drop-off is a narrow coral canyon that houses a giant, 100 year old anchor. The crevice begins at 70 feet, forming a winding passageway that leads toward the face of the drop-off. At precisely 95 feet, one will find an iron anchor wedged tightly into the narrow crevice. The shank of the anchor is approximately nine feet tall and the flukes measure seven feet from tip to tip. Partially covered by encrusting corals and sponges, the anchor is solidly cemented to the sidewalls of the canyon. It actually hangs four feet above the floor of the canyon and divers can swim under the flukes. It would appear that the anchor was accidently dropped into this narrow crevice and became so tightly wedged it had to be abandoned.

The **Hobbit** is an enchanting drop-off less than one-quarter mile east of the Tiara Beach Hotel. It was named after the classic written by J.R.R. Tolkien because of its fairyland appearance. The top of the wall begins at 70 feet and features a number of bizarre looking sponges. There are several giant barrel sponges measuring four feet in diameter and standing six feet tall. These are mostly on the top of the wall. The fish life is extremely active and includes blue runner jacks, barracudas and ocean triggerfish.

An inshore dive site to the southwest of Hobbit is a medium depth reef known as **Wind Sock**. This spot is best known for its elkhorn coral formations, tall pillar coral and staghorn beds. There are huge, mountainous cones of star coral with a wreath of staghorn at the base of each. Dive depths range from 25 to 50 feet. This reef is honeycombed with crevices, archways and overhangs that create some dramatic angles for U/W photography. There are also large numbers of damselfish, blue chromis, trumpetfish and butterflyfish.

Airport Wall is a vertical drop-off starting at 65 feet. The top of the wall is loaded with seaplumes and seawhips, clusters of tube sponges and deepwater gorgonians. Small reef fish and French angelfish are common.

At the very western tip of the island, there is a 90 foot drop-off known as **End of the Island Reef**. On the north side of the island is a popular dive known as **East Chute**. The main attraction here is an old Spanish anchor resting in 90 feet, hooked on the edge of the wall. Lying directly north of the local cemetery is a drop-off called **Cemetery Wall**. This dive features a number of large basket sponges, yellow tube sponges and excellent visibility. The wall starts in only 45 feet where there are large mounds of star coral, tube sponges and seawhips.

Radar Reef is only 150 yards from shore and can be dived from the beach or by boat. Diving depths range from 30-60 feet. This reef is a series of rolling coral ridges with sand canyons in between. One large coral mound towers over the rest of the reef and is a haven for a school of snappers and two large Bermuda chubs. There is also a 75 foot tunnel that goes under the reef, turns upward and exits in the center of the coral formations. The reef has many seafans, gorgonians, sponges and star corals.

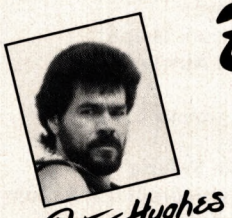
Another popular dive that can be reached from shore or by boat is **Duppy's Reef**. Diving depths range from 25-40 feet. This is a series of large coral ridges on a white sand bottom. There are yellow tube sponges and many medium sized barrel sponges.

Other popular dive sites on the north side of the island include: **School House Wall**, a vertical wall drop-off; **Grunt Valley**, a 50 foot coral reef; and **Squirrel Reef**, a 40 foot coral reef.

LITTLE CAYMAN

Little Cayman is even smaller than Cayman Brac, measuring ten miles long and one mile wide. It is completely flat, with several areas occupied by salt ponds and mangroves. The island is a perfect sanctuary for birds and other fragile forms of wildlife. This outpost in the Caribbean has a population of less than 30.

Little Cayman has three small diving facilities that can accommodate a limited number of divers. Sam McCoy's Diving Lodge is on the northwest tip of the island



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LITTLE CAYMAN

LOCATION	– 79 miles NE of Grand Cayman, one mile west of Cayman Brac
LENGTH	– 10 miles
WIDTH	– 1 mile
ELEVATION	– 40 feet/flat limestone island
ROADS	– Graded coral, some paved
POPULATION	– 27 permanent residents
CAPITAL	– Blossom Village
AIRPORT	– 3,300 ft., grass, no control tower
AIR SERVICE	– Twice weekly from Cayman Brac charters from G. Cayman anytime
LODGING	– 3 hotel/guest lodges
SHOPPING	– None

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and has seven rooms that can accommodate a maximum of 14 divers. The atmosphere is casual and the service, cordial.

The Southern Cross Club is a slightly larger beach facility with a total of 10 rooms that can accommodate up to 20 divers. Basically a fishing camp, it also hosts a number of visiting divers.

Pirates Point Resort has a recently refurbished guesthouse and rustic cottages. Owner/operator Gladys Howard offers all-inclusive dive packages and fabulous gourmet meals.

LITTLE CAYMAN DIVE SITES

Most of the diving at Little Cayman is off the North Shore at two basic areas—Bloody Bay and Jackson Point. Both areas offer some of the finest wall diving in the Cayman Islands.

Bloody Bay Wall is considered to be the most breathtaking drop-off in the Caribbean. In fact, it has often been described as one of the seven underwater wonders of the world. This unusual drop-off begins at the remarkable shallow depth of 22 feet and drops vertically to 600 feet and beyond. The most prominent feature of the wall is the spectacular array of exotically colored sponges. A rare form of platinum yellow pipe sponge can be found here in great abundance, with brilliant specimens growing every 10 feet or so along the face of the wall. Azure cup sponges and pink vase sponges are equally plentiful. There are also many lovely formations of cream colored vase sponges, emerald green tube sponges, red finger sponges and black coral trees. The face of the wall is a veritable Garden of Eden with marine life so unique it is not duplicated anywhere else in the Caribbean.

Little Cayman Wall is two miles east of the western tip of the island. The wall is about one mile long, starting in 20 feet of water and dropping vertically to 700 feet or more. Hundreds of sponge species grow on the wall in a myriad of colors. There is a tremendous proliferation of azure vase sponges at different depths and in various sizes and shapes.

The top of the reef is thickly carpeted with a beautiful coral garden. Large purple seafans, tall seaplumes and slender gorgonians are everywhere. There are also a great many brain corals, yellow pipe organ sponges and button corals.

Three Fathom Wall is a small section of Bloody Bay Wall that comes to within 18 feet of the surface. It is one of the only vertical drop-offs in the Caribbean that can be easily dived on snorkel! The face of the wall in this area is somewhat broken by several small canyons and crevices. There is one winding ravine at 60 feet that finally turns into a coral tunnel and leads to a high vaulted cavern beneath the reef. A small opening in the roof of the cavern allows sunlight to illuminate the interior. The face of this drop-off is also loaded with exotic sponges and large black coral trees.

The top of the wall is a beautiful coral sea garden filled with gently swaying seafans, feathery seaplumes, swaying seawhips, brain corals and sponges of every type. Depths along the top of the reef range from 15 to 20 feet and the area is loaded with all types of invertebrates. Many photographers spend the last part of their wall dives browsing through this lovely sea garden and shooting macro while they decompress.

The Chimney is typical of the Bloody Bay wall sites. The drop-off begins at 20 feet and plunges sharply to 900. The face of the drop-off is almost a smooth vertical wall, etched with a few small ledges, crevices and tiny caves. Magnificent formations of colorful tube sponges grow out from this perpendicular face and there is an occasional tree of splendid black coral. The top of the wall is a lush coral garden filled with hard corals, soft gorgonians and a myriad of small sponges. The fish life is rich and quite friendly, especially along the very rim of the drop-off. Underwater visibility at this spot ranges from 100 to 150 feet. This

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site is marked by a vertical tunnel that runs from the top of the reef down to 100 feet and is filled with lush marine life.

The **Jackson Point** area is farther east of Bloody Bay Wall. The area is actually a collection of sites that include: **School Bus Reef**, Jackson's Reef, The Labyrinth, **Ramparts**, **Magnificent Reef**, **Magic Roundabout** and **Anchor Reef**. **Jackson's Reef** begins at 50 feet and tumbles down in a fascinating conglomeration of high coral heads, narrow canyons and sheer walls. This jumbled terrain provides endless hours of fascinating exploration. It is doubtful that anyone can fully appreciate it in merely one dive.

The Labyrinth is a combination of vertical wall drop-offs and canyons. There are huge, iridescent tube sponges, large pink vase sponges and blood red sponges literally hanging from the branches of black coral trees. Divers frequently report seeing large schools of horse-eye jacks swimming down the face of the wall.

CONSERVATION LAWS

In 1978 the Cayman Islands government instituted a strict Marine Conservation Law. Regulations protect many marine species and also control the means by which more abundant sea life may be taken by traditional fishermen.

The single most important regulation is the prohibition of taking any type of coral or sponge anywhere in Cayman waters by anyone. Violation of this law carries a maximum penalty of a $5,000 fine and one year in prison. As you can see, the Caymanians are very serious about marine conservation.

There is also a law strictly prohibiting fishing with any type of poison or other chemicals (such as bleach) and no one may take live fish for the purpose of export for aquariums.

Spearguns and seine nets require a fishing license and are subject to controls as to where they may be used and precisely how many fish may be taken. These fishing licenses are limited to Caymanians and long term residents of the island. Special areas have been set aside for this type of activity. Maximum limits and minimum size requirements strictly regulate the taking of lobsters (by Cay-

INFORMATION

Brochures and more information about the Cayman Islands are available by contacting the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism.

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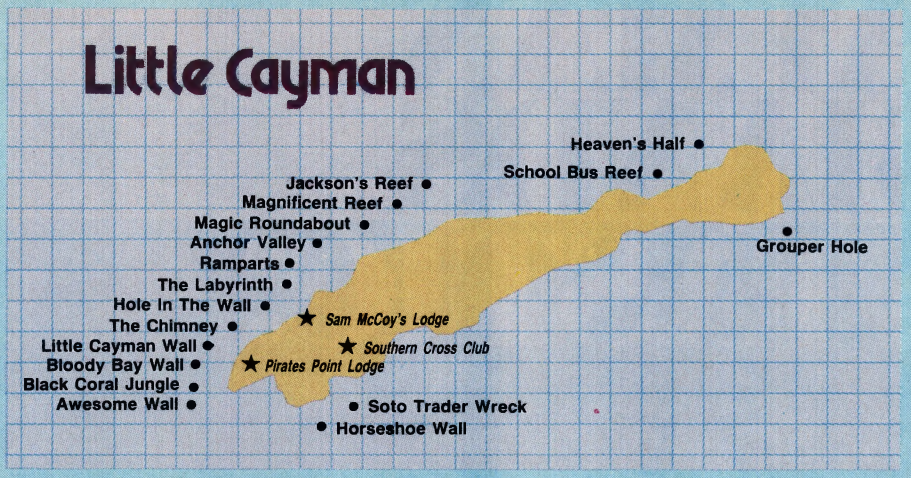

manians) during a specified season. There is also a maximum limit on conch. Turtles and turtle eggs are also protected.

MARINE PARKS

In February 1986 the government further established laws and regulations for a complete and comprehensive system of marine park zones strategically placed throughout Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Working in conjunction with the Cayman Islands Watersports Association, the government is installing and maintaining a system of permanent moorings at all popular dive sites. The purpose of these is to prevent coral and sponge damage by the continual daily anchoring of dive boats. In addition, the divemaster is required to advise guests of the basic marine conservation laws prior to entering the water. There is also a brochure available that specifies all conservation rules and indicates the marine park zones.

The Cayman government has established an interesting marine management system by dividing the reefs into four separate and distinct zones: 1) marine park; 2) Replenishment; 3) Environmental; 4) Animal Sanctuary. Each carries its own restrictions and regulations.

The marine park zones are those areas in which much of the diving is done, as they encompass a large number of walls and shallow coral reefs.

The Replenishment Zones are fisheries management areas where stocks of conch and lobster can breed and reproduce. The theory is that the eggs and larvae from these areas will spread throughout the reefs of the Cayman Islands and repopulate depleted areas. Replenishment Zones are somewhat temporary and are designed to bring the marine life back into balance.

The Environmental Zones are of great ecological importance in basic marine life development. These encompass large tracts of mangroves and shallow turtle grass areas that serve as nurseries for juvenile fish. They are also important nesting areas for various types of birds.

The final and most precious zones are those designated as Animal Sanctuaries. These are mostly ponds, wetlands and rookeries that are totally off limits for hunting, collecting or littering. With this system of four zones, the Cayman Islands hope to fully preserve their natural resources and help them flourish.

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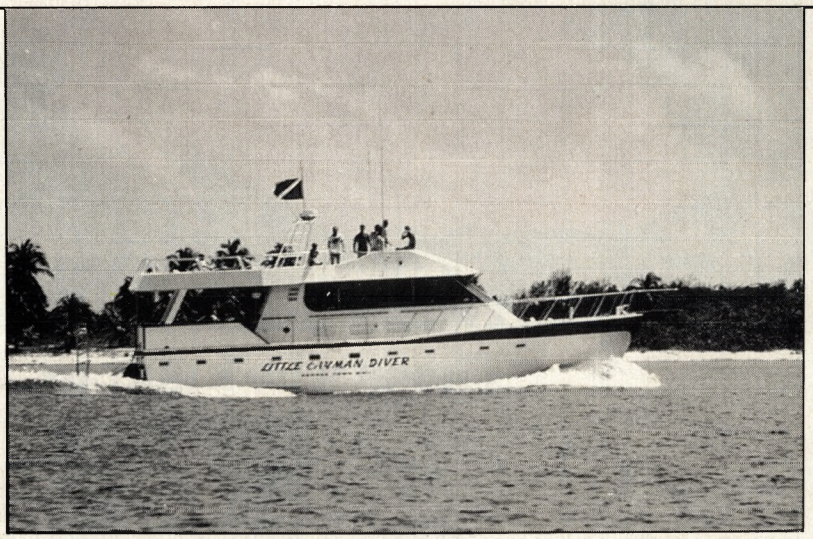

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SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

TRAVEL

POSADA DEL SOL

An Uncommon Diver's Retreat in the Bay Islands

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG JOHNSTON

Top left: The entrance to the main clubhouse at Posada del Sol. Top right: Exotic macaws are part of the inn's atmosphere. Above: Posada del Sol's dive boats *Treasure Diver* and *Spanish Diver* are identical, 42 foot, diesel V-hulls.

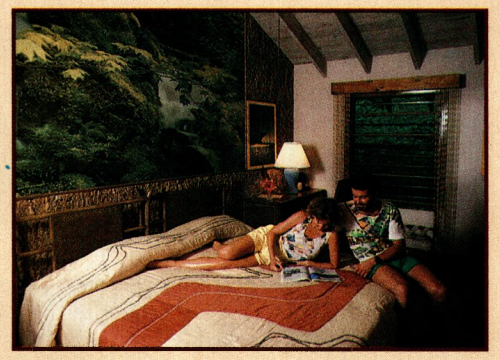
The air seemed very still. Large, puffy, pink-toned clouds hung motionless above the flat calm sea. The Tan Sahsa DC-3 floated through them, droning along in solitude. Far off, the gray haze obscured the thin horizon that separated the sea from the sky. I closed my eyes and listened to the hum of the engines, mesmerized by our Indiana Jones adventure.

The short, 40 minute hop from the Honduras coastal city of La Ceiba to Guanaja in the Bay Islands offered a breathtaking view. In the distance, the mountainous island appeared to be adrift in an endless ocean. As the twin propeller plane banked hard to begin its final approach, I was awed by the emerald slopes that rolled into the sapphire sea.

Suddenly, one of the passengers yelled, "Whale shark!" People pressed their noses flat against the small windows, straining to see the whale shark as we passed low over it. It was swimming slowly along the coral drop-off. I watched as the cumbersome beast loafed on the surface. Perhaps 50 feet long, it was easily distinguished by the white spots that covered its back.

After quickly deplaning, we were met by the friendly staff of Posada del

TRAVEL



Above: Fish feeding at Jim's Silverload. Right: One of Posada del Sol's individual rooms with private bath. Formerly a private estate, the inn offers 18 rooms—four with king sized beds, the others with twin beds. Four units are on the beach, two are in the clubhouse and 12 on the sundeck.

Sol resort. Excitedly, we explained about the whale shark. An immediate radio dispatch was sent to all fishermen in the area to watch for the animal and report its position. We were later told that although such sightings are uncommon they do occasionally occur in the Bay Islands. Owing to the remoteness of Guanaja in the western Caribbean, the diverse marine life and the rich planktonic waters, the chance of such encounters with large pelagics is everpresent.

Unfortunately, my stay was not long enough to search for the monstrous fish. However, this was not too disappointing. The few days that I did spend on Guanaja, I finned through fish filled submarine canyons, explored volcanic caves, handfed a large barracuda, hugged a huge grouper, swam among a flowing school of horse-eye jacks and crawled inside a shark filled cave for a heart pounding experience.

Posada del Sol (Inn of the Sun) is an uncommon treat for the discriminating diver. Resembling a posh country club for the rich and famous, it is a physical masterpiece of Mediterranean style villas. Formerly a private estate for an eccentric millionaire, the resort has maintained its charm and elegance, yet typifies the perfect scuba retreat.

The white stucco resort with the red tiled roof is a stark contrast to the surrounding jungle. Spread across a beautiful powder-sand beach, the resort is comprised of 18 rooms—four with king sized beds, the others with twin beds. All of the rooms have ocean view jalousie windows. There are four units on the beach, two in the main clubhouse and 12 along the elevated sundeck, across from the freshwater swimming pool. Additionally, one room has a private sitting and dining area. All rooms are tastefully decorated with high wood beamed ceilings, hanging fans, Spanish tile floors and marble vanities and showers.

The pool area is surrounded by accents of tropical flowers. Orchids grow wild throughout the well manicured grounds as do hibiscus, bougainvillaea and bottlebrush. For those who appreciate exotic birds, Posada del Sol is like an open aviary. Scarlet macaws roam freely about the resort and other species of wild parrots can be found everywhere.

The main house contains the beautifully decorated dining room and handsome indoor/outdoor lounge and club room. The bar is adjacent to the pool, conveniently allowing guests to sample their favorite fresh tropical fruit drinks while working on a suntan. Beyond the guesthouse are the lighted tennis courts and the covered boathouse, where all the dive gear is stored in a dehumidified lockup. Next to the boathouse is an exercise room packed with weight sets and Universal equipment. Behind the resort is a nature trail leading up the steep side of the mountain.

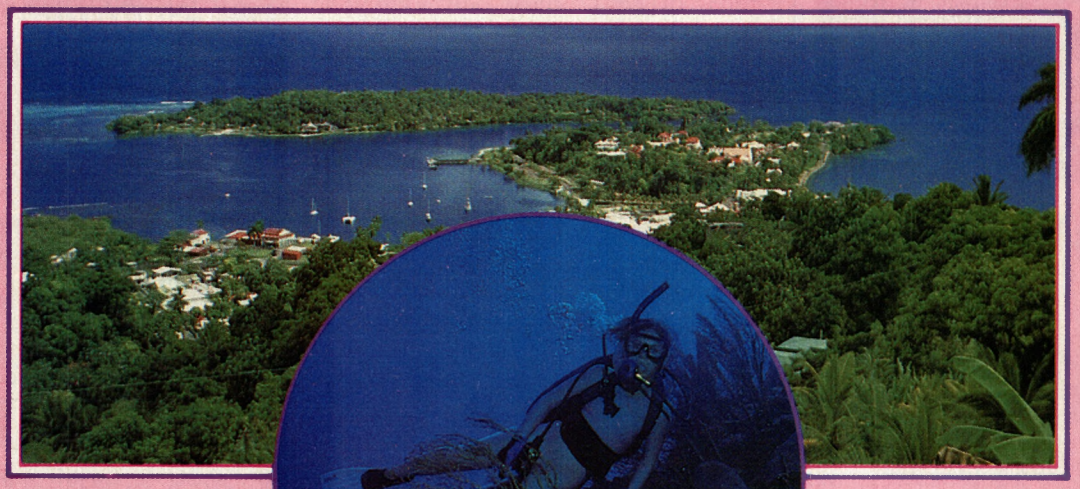
The marina provides excellent protection for Posada del Sol's fleet of dive boats. The *Spanish Diver* and *Treasure Diver* are identical 42 foot fiberglass V-hulled diesel vessels. Both were designed specifically for diving by Hulls Unlimited and pack an assortment of marine electronics. There are also wide walk-through transoms, easy access dive platforms with extended ladders, and covered deck space. The *Isleña* is a similarly equipped 36 foot dive boat and the *Top Diver* is a 25 foot open fisherman.

A new, full-rental dive shop and film lab are planned, and there are VHS and 8mm video cameras for rent as well as editing and soundtrack capabilities to allow you to record your week's diving adventures. Several rental cameras are available for the novice photographer or as a backup for the serious pro.

The principal owner of Posada del Sol is George Cundiff, a former commercial diver and devoted scuba enthusiast. General manager John Propeck is his lifelong friend and ex-commercial diving buddy. Both men, who retired early in life, pursue sport diving as emphatically as they pursued the commercial diving trade. George's success as head of one of the country's largest commercial diving companies, and John's completion of a record string of 1,000 foot saturation dives, are impressive. Today, their efforts are directed toward providing optimum diving services for their guests. As George quotes himself from a previous article, "Posada is a diving resort from beginning to end." Resident manager Melissa Langham and operations manager Tino Monterroso are also aware that the hotel's success is built on repeat customers. Excellent support services, topside amenities and a program of three tank boat dives per day, with quick and easy access to the reefs, make Posada del Sol a first class operation.

The geological forces that created the rugged island of Guanaja are mirrored in an image of equal beauty underwater. The shallow reefs gently slope to a depth of 25-40 feet, where vertical drop-offs begin. The drop-offs

JAMAICA



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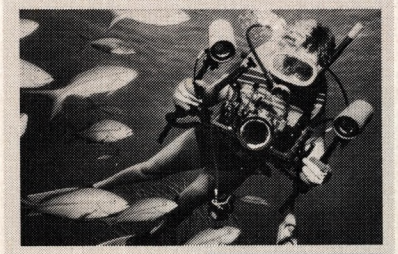

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POSADA DEL SOL

offer wall diving at its finest. Great trumpet, rope and barrel sponges dot the wall, along with stands of gorgonians, black coral trees and huge lavender seafans. Brilliant yellow tube sponges abound on these walls, gilding some areas in such a way that they appear to be pots of gold at the end of a rainbow.

One of the most exciting dives is in a little known area called Blacktip Slumberland. It is easily distinguished by a wide sand channel that runs for more than 200 yards from the edge of the precipice to a natural cave system on the inside of the barrier reef. Inside the cave a population of blacktip and bull sharks maintains a sleepy posture with pectoral fins wedged into the sand. The sharks are quite approachable, however, I suggest you leave ample room for them to depart should they decide it is uncomfortable with too many visitors.

There is a massive school of horse-eye jacks that will engulf you at Caldera Diablo (the Devil's Cauldron). And, at certain times of the year, the area is completely inhabited by spawning groupers. An ocean pinnacle is nearby. A unique geological creation, it is perfectly symmetrical. The base is perhaps 50 feet in diameter and starts at a depth of 130 feet. Rising more than 70 feet, it terminates with a flattened cap approximately 15 feet across. Red sponges and gorgonians dominate the pinnacle, hanging steadfastly in open water. This is an excellent location for underwater photography as larger pelagics, jacks, tarpon and schooling fish congregate.

An area known as Jim's Silverload has some of the friendliest fish I have ever met. Named for its flowing school of glassy silversides, this area has a large resident barracuda that can be handfed. A population of curious groupers is always on hand for a free tidbit and a large green moray can be enticed out of its home for exciting photo opportunities.

Further discussion on reef sites would only be undeserving; Guanaja is a destination you have to experience yourself. Some sites not to miss are the Volcano Caves, a series of interconnecting caves stretched over a mile and one-half in 60 feet of water; Vertigo, a shear wall with a condominium sized population of black crinoids; Margate Cave, with an assortment of swim-through coral caves accented with tropical fish; and Nick's Humps, four huge mounds in an open sand area at 90 feet.

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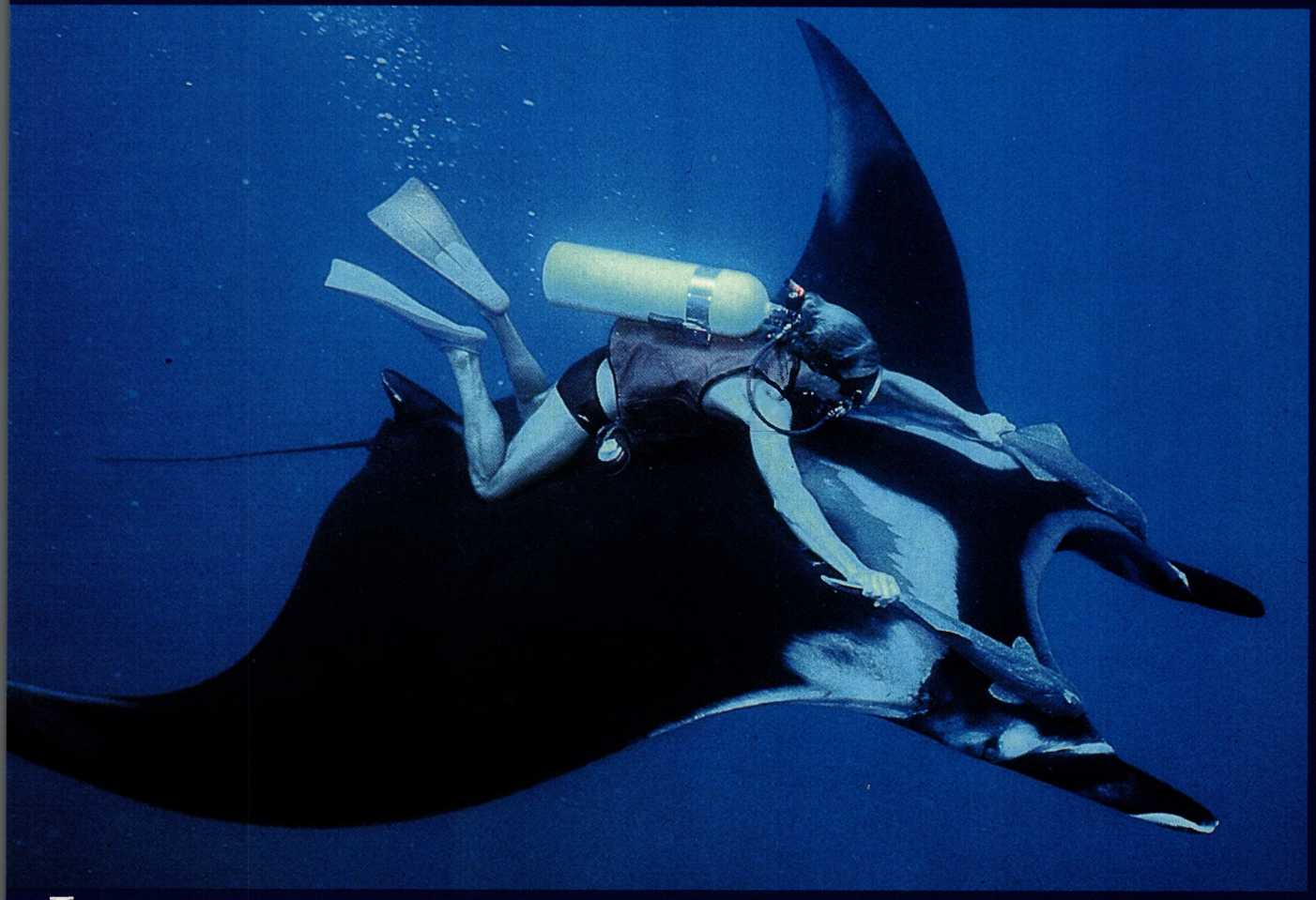

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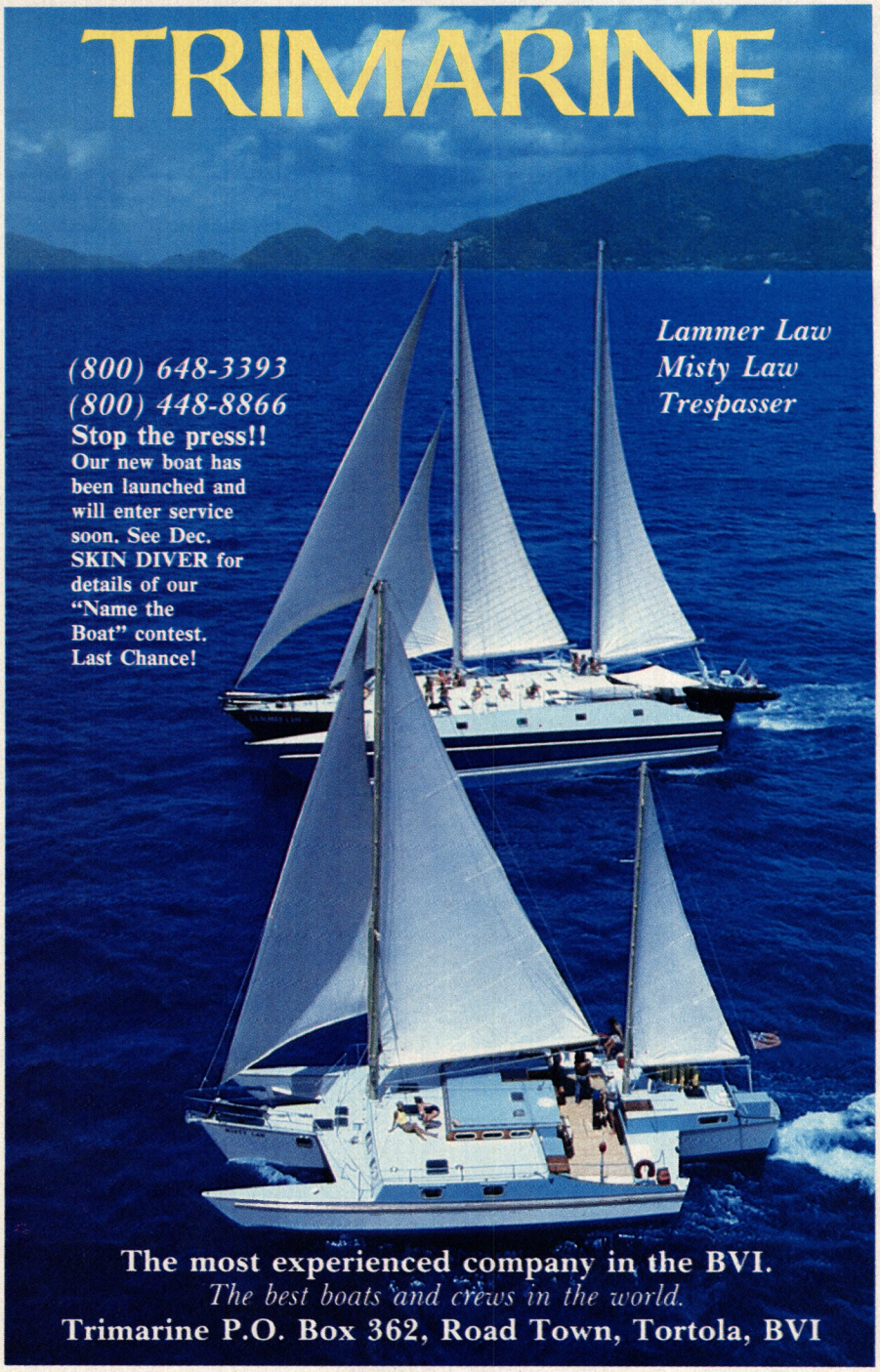


THE HISTORIAN

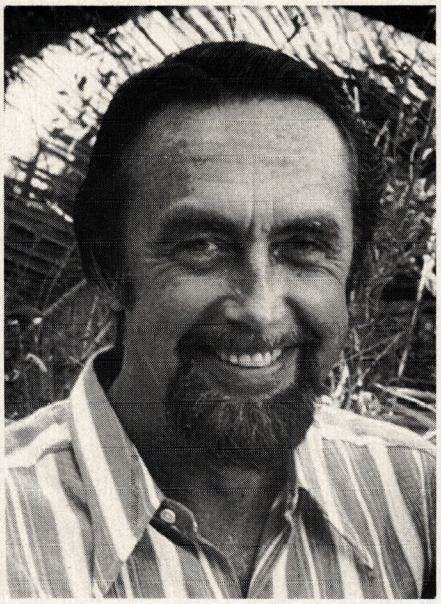
SDM LOOKS BACK WITH E.R. CROSS

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, FEBRUARY 1953

This month SKIN DIVER Magazine was one year and two months old and contained 20 pages. A lot was happening.

The Council of Diving Clubs, itself less than one year old, joined forces with the Ocean Fish Protective Association to help promote good practices and good legislation in all types of ocean fishing. The combined membership of these two organizations had a lot to do with the self governing status of sport diving. Bill Barada was chairman of the Council of Diving Clubs. SKIN DIVER supported both sport divers and their council.

The first ever diving club, The Bottom Scratchers of San Diego, was a 20 year old entity and still going strong. Ben Stone, one of the charter members, reported on a dive that he, Glenn Orr and Jack Prodanovich made for lobster in early 1933 that sparked the idea of a diving club. The club did not have a president. The fearless leader of the group of 11 members was the diver who speared the largest fish during the year. His title was Grand Exalted Walrus.



photo/Jack McKenney

Hans Hass

Dr. Hans Hass' great film, *Under the Red Sea*, was showing at the Orphium Theater and drawing good crowds. The Los Angeles Neptunes set up an interesting display of sport diving equipment, mounted fish and lobster in the lobby of the theater.

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The big activities of that era were spearfishing contests and trying to find a drysuit that was dry. Wetsuits were still in the future.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, FEBRUARY 1973

SKIN DIVER boasted more than 100 pages and lots of paid ads. It was as healthy as was the sport it supported.

An article titled Atomic Graveyard was featured. An advertisement for the film, *The Bikini Expedition*, was also part of this month's SKIN DIVER. The feature, the ad and the film were exciting but had several errors of fact. The most glaring was the statement that the expedition to photograph in Bikini was "... the first time ever a team of divers dared venture into the 'deadly fathoms' of Bikini Lagoon." Fact: U.S. Navy divers were working underwater in Bikini just days after both the first and second blast, recovering instruments, taking photographs and operating underwater TV systems while gathering information on the effects of the blasts. Tolerances to exposure to radioactive material were sometimes as short as 15 minutes.

The battle of Pennekamp Park was heating up, as reported by SKIN DIVER Magazine's Bill Barada. Politics and greed were wrecking the place.

Jim and Cathy Church were already doing Underwater Photography, Quick and Easy for SDM readers. Color had come to diving in splashy colored tanks, BCs, wetsuits, fins, masks and bikini-clad girls. Diving was a grand sport for all.

Readers are invited to send me information and photos about their diving activities of 35 and 15 years ago. Or, if you have questions, let us hear from you. Write to The Historian, c/o SKIN DIVER Magazine, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069.

POSADA DEL SOL

(Continued from Page 102)

the 80s (°F), an amazing barrier reef system and accessibility to either the windward or leeward side of the island, it would take an incredible act of nature to make guests miss a day of diving on Guanaja. And, it's nice to know that Posada del Sol is there to serve. For more information write: Posada del Sol, 171 West Blue Heron Boulevard, Riviera Beach, Florida 33404. Or, call toll free (800) 642-DIVE. In Florida call (800) 226-DIVE or (305) 848-DIVE. Good Luck!

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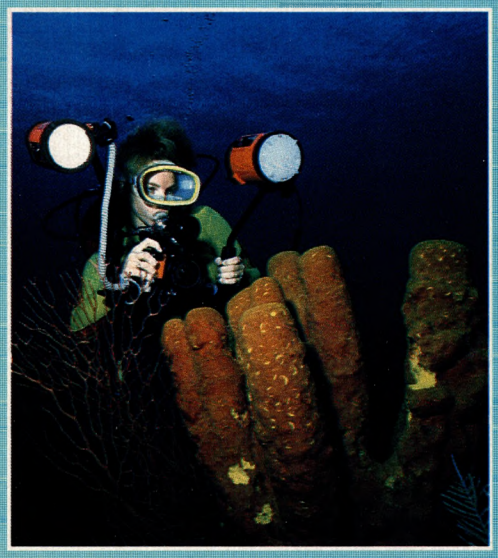
photo/Barbara Doerr

photos/Jerry Schnabel

Top: Stephen Frink (lower right) with Nikonos Seminar students. Above: Jerry Schnabel and Suzie Swygert. Below: *Star Explorer*. Left and bottom: The waters off Bonaire offer excellent photo subjects.



photo/Stephen Frink

photo/Stephen

photo/Barbara Doernb

NIKONOS SEMINAR PROGRAM AT BONAIRE

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK

There is no mistaking the emergence of underwater photography as a significant force in the future of recreational diving. The technology alone has made tremendous gains over just the past five years. The introduction of the automatic exposure Nikonos V and through-the-lens (TTL) compatible strobes such as the SB-102 and SB-103 have simplified the process and demystified the basic pursuit of the underwater image, but the more creative application of the Nikonos system too often remains a trial and error practice. Nikon, Inc. intends to change all of this in 1988 with an innovative program of underwater photography instruction.

In the most exciting and ambitious consumer educational program ever conceived for the underwater photographer, the Photo Bonaire facility and the services of Dive Bonaire at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort and Casino will host a series of underwater photo seminars by internationally recognized professionals. Sponsored by Nikon, Inc. and the Nikonos system of underwater cameras and strobes, guest instructors such as Stephen Frink, Bill Gleason, Rick Frehsee, Scott Frier, Paul Tzimoulis and Geri Murphy will visit the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort to conduct week long seminars on U/W photography. These courses will be specially structured to optimize the use of the Nikonos systems, but will cover virtually all aspects of still U/W photography. Photo Bonaire resident photo pros Jerry Schnabel and Suzie Swygert will also serve as instructors for the Nikon seminars in addition to normally scheduled one, two and three day still and video instructional offerings.

Each of these well known professional underwater photographers will have his own course format and daily routine. As an example, when I teach at Photo Bonaire I offer classroom lectures in the morning in the comfortably air-conditioned and spacious conference center. Here the resort has provided all of the projectors, blackboards, tables, chairs and various teaching aids that make it easy to handle groups of up to 30 students, although smaller classes of 12-16 seem to be more the norm. The classroom lecture includes some of my slides, chosen to illustrate the particular topic of discussion, as well as a projection critique of a selection of the students' photography from the previous day. By having the film processed so expediently by Photo Bonaire, the learning curve is shortened and retention facilitated. By projecting the group's slides we can all learn from what each photographer has done right or, occasionally, wrong.

Each day's dives are done from our own boat. For small groups Photo Bonaire's *Images* might be used. This is a 30 foot diesel powered V-hull, set up for the convenience of the underwater photographer with a camera table, freshwater rinse tank, oversized dive platform and the other general innovations that have traditionally typified the Peter Hughes dive fleet. At present, Dive Bonaire has 12 vessels, all with tank racks and dive platforms with extended ladders. Large groups of photographers will, of course, be accommodated on larger vessels (or even a combination of larger vessels) and nowhere in the resort dive business is there a better fleet of dive boats. Most of these have V-hulls and diesel power, although there are two unique, custom cathedral hull boats, as well as a pair of ultra-stable flattops. Underwater photography has been heavily emphasized by the Peter Hughes Diving services at the Flamingo Beach from the very beginning, and all dive craft have been designed with the U/W photographer in mind.

As is most common with all photo instruction conducted at the Flamingo Beach Resort, the dive boat will be staffed by a captain and divemaster directed to choose the sites best suited to the group's photographic objectives. The typical Nikonos seminar will include at least two boat dives daily and a couple of night dives, although most participants sign up for the Dive Bonaire unlimited package and may elect to do more dives.

The range of sites will include Klein Bonaire, the best dives along the Bonaire coastline—the Town Pier and the Salt Pier—and even an excursion to Washington/Slagbaai National Park. By having our own boat and crew we are able to access the very best of the available dive sites, spend as much time as is necessary to achieve our photographic objectives and not be interrupted by the needs or desires of non-photographers on board. I've found Jerry, Suzie and the Dive Bonaire staff to be exceptionally cooperative during these seminars in helping the students find the elusive frogfish, seahorses, eels and other marine life that comprise the Bonaire piscine population.

Shooting a minimum of one roll of film per dive, the group of seminar participants will generate at least 14 rolls of film for the week and a high quality portfolio of the best diving available on Bonaire. On our graduation night these images are used to produce a multi-projector slide show, which is presented to the guests of the Flamingo Beach Resort. These presentations are often greeted with standing ovations in recognition of the outstanding quality of the group's photographic efforts. The seminar participants leave Photo Bonaire having experienced a wonderful dive vacation, learned a great deal about underwater photography and developed an impressive file of new images. Because of Nikon's sponsorship, the cost of these programs is extremely reasonable and, in fact, represents the best value in underwater photo instruction today.

Dive Bonaire and the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort have been appointed hosts for this continuing series of seminars for 1988 because of their record of excellence in diving services, the comfort and convenience of the resort property, the predictably superior diving to be found just offshore Bonaire and the very complete underwater photographic services maintained on the premises. Photo Bonaire has grown into a nearly 900 square foot facility conveniently located in the heart of the Flamingo Beach Resort complex, with a second 400 square foot center known as Photo Bonaire Dos just 30 yards away. Jerry Schnabel and Suzie Swygert are the friendly, helpful and very qualified resident photo pros. They are ably assisted by Jose Margarita and Amaryllis Janga. The film processing is accomplished via a sink line system able to develop as many as 30 rolls of film at one time. The E-6 process has become the standard for many manufacturers of reversal film and now Ektachrome, Fujichrome, Agfachrome and 3M films may be processed on the premises.

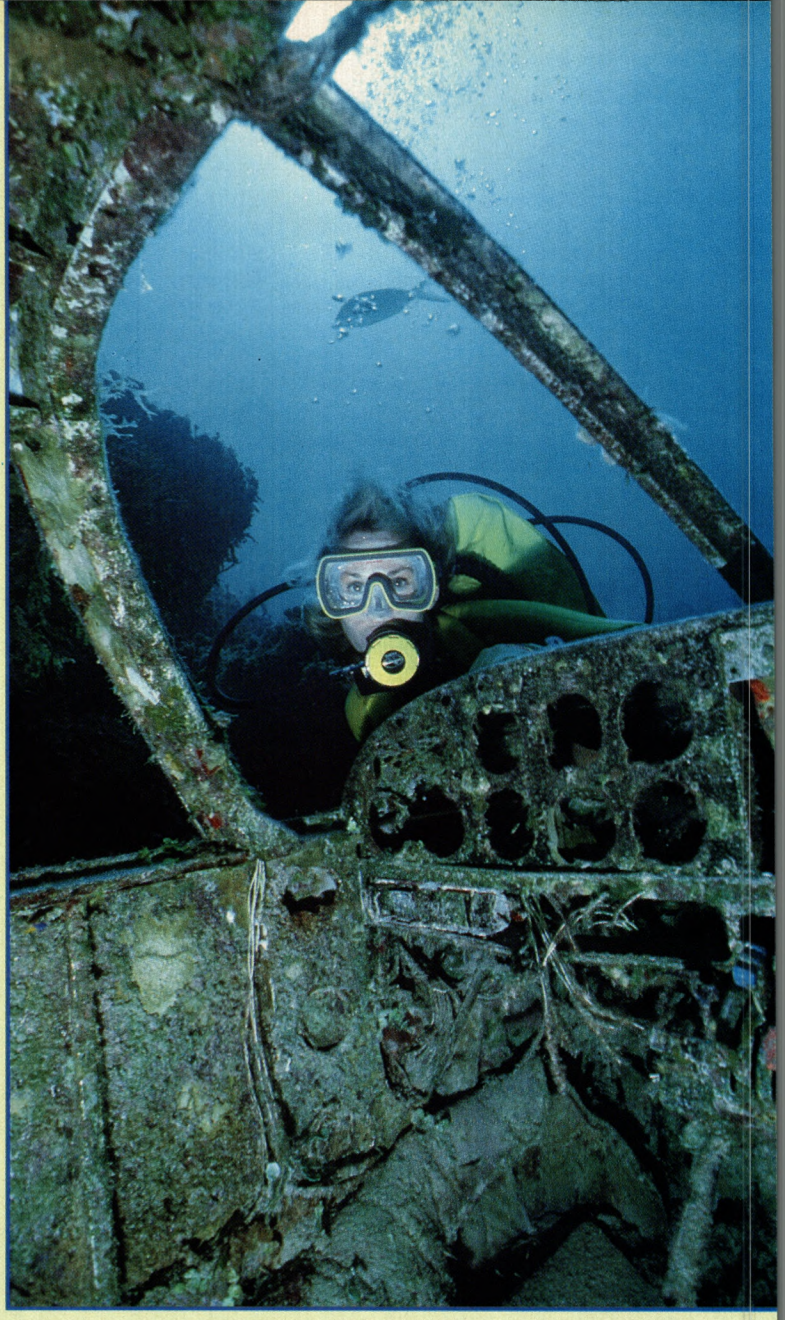
Recognizing that not all of its guests prefer slides, Photo Bonaire has just installed a one hour processor for color negative film. In Photo Bonaire Dos, a Yokoyama MLK 812 machine is in place to process C-41 films (Kodacolor and Fujicolor) in either 110, 35mm or 120 formats. The processor has the capacity to produce 377 4 x 6 inch prints per hour, as well as enlargements up to 8 x 10

(Continued on Page 114)

BONAIRE NIKONOS SEMINARS

April 9-16	Scott Frier
April 23-30	Stephen Frink
May 14-21	Bill Gleason
June 4-11	Jerry Schnabel/ Suzie Swygert
July 2-9	Paul Tzimoulis/Geri Murphy
July 9-16	Jerry Schnabel/ Suzie Swygert
Aug. 6-13	Rick Frehsee
Aug. 20-27	Bill Gleason
Sept. 17-24	Stephen Frink
Oct. 1-8	Rick Frehsee
Oct. 29-Nov. 5	Scott Frier
Dec. 3-10	Stephen Frink

CHUB CAY UNDERSEA ADVENTURES



Chub Cay is known as the "Fishbowl of the Bahamas" and the Chub Cay Club and Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures combine to offer convenient dive/lodging packages with a host of amenities. Top: The Airplane Wreck in Chub Cay's Truck Lagoon. Above: A spadefish. Right: Queen's Beach is three miles long.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK M. LAWRENCE

When you see the color of the panorama below change abruptly from the characteristic indigo of the deep Gulf Stream to the bright turquoise of the Bahamas, you understand why the Spanish called this area the shallow sea. As your 50 minute Southern Outbound Air Charter continues, the flats pass beneath you in a series of repetitious blue-green and white swirls, bars and sinuous streaks. Occasional blue holes interrupt the graceful linear patterns. Even before you're close enough to begin your descent to Chub Cay and Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures, you can spot the dramatic drop-off. The cyan color of the shallow water reefs changes suddenly into an ultramarine created by 6,000 feet of clear seawater. You know the diving will be great.

The Berry Islands mark the rim of the Great Bahamas bank and the western edge of the Tongue of the Ocean. Chub and Fraziers Hog Cays sit at the southern end of the Berry Islands. Behind Chub Cay, shallow flats stretch out to the northern tip of the Berry Islands and all the way east to Bimini. This enormous shallow area serves as a breeding ground and nursery for many species of fish. Marlin, sailfish and tuna come out of the deep Tongue of the Ocean to feed offshore Chub's lush coral reefs.

A wonderfully varied collection of fish dwell on Chub's reefs. For example, while you are concentrating on a little longsnout butterflyfish, you probably won't observe the wall of crevalle jacks cruising over the reef behind you. As you wait for the shy hamlet to grow accustomed to your shiny camera housing and noisy bubbles, you might fail to notice the spadefish circling your fins. Peering through the viewfinder of your Nikonos an instant after you shoot your partner hovering above a branching black coral tree, you may see an enormous eagle ray glide under your buddy's fins. Sound unlikely? For some places perhaps, but not here. It all happened to the author on just one dive at Chub Cay! No wonder divers call this the "Fishbowl of the Bahamas."

Chub Cay Club is a privately owned resort. Guests get the ambiance of a small out-island environment coupled with the service of a well established yacht club. After clearing customs and immigration at the island's airport (don't forget to bring your passport, voter's registration card or birth certificate), the Chub Cay Club courtesy van takes visitors for the brief ride through the pine woods to the club and marina. No doubt you will be given one of the rooms that is strategically located between the dive shop and the restaurant. A few steps out the door and you're in the pool. Not only do the air-conditioned rooms come with satellite cable color TV, but each also has a refrigerator and complimentary coffee and tea.

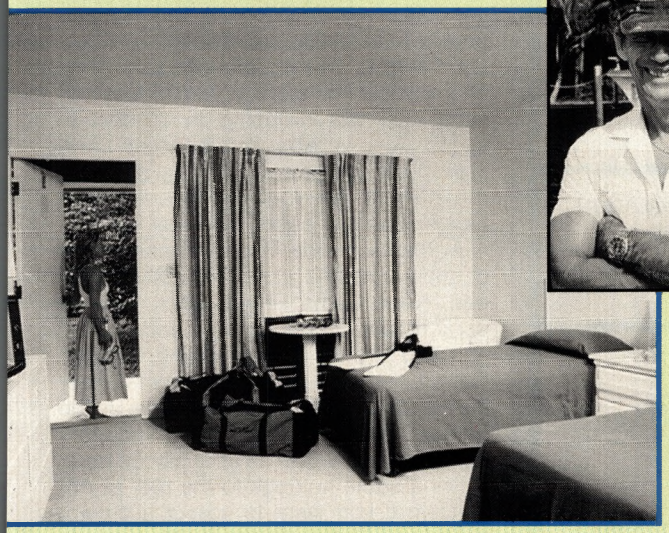
To make island life more comfortable and predictable, the Chub Cay Club built its own electrical power station and desalination plant. The marina creates several benefits for visiting divers. You can go for two dives in the morning; on the afternoon charter board either a sleek sportfishermen to troll for big gamefish in the deep water or hire a shallow draft fishing boat to wander the flats in search of bonefish. Chub Cay Club's island amenities and 85 slip marina attract the very wealthy as well as very knowledgeable sport fishermen. Multimillion dollar sailing and motor yachts up to 165 feet in length often come into Chub. You never know who may sail in during the season.

The Commissary & Androsia Gift Shop stocks goodies that appeal to all. Whether you want to tuck away a bottle of good wine or champagne in your refrigerator or need to purchase some shampoo and razor blades, the commissary has it. It also sells fashionable resort wear.

Next to the commissary and, fortunately, not too far from the rooms, you will discover the Flying Bridge Restaurant and Bar. Upon entering the restaurant, it's not unusual to find yourself invited to join a group already seated at a large table. Like the atmosphere at the Flying Bridge, the service is friendly. Although, as you might expect, you are in the land of fresh seafood, this restaurant serves a great 12 ounce sirloin steak and New Zealand lamb chops. Try the Chub Cay conch chowder or cracked conch. You can order the fresh catch of the day either broiled or fried. If you can't make up your mind, sample some conch, shrimp and grouper on the fisherman's platter presented with the Bahamian traditional side dish of peas and rice. Save a little room for the carrot cake or sinfully rich chocolate cake. You can work off the dessert at the bumper pool or Ping-Pong tables. Since Undersea Adventures packages include full breakfasts and dinners, you may also opt to burn up a few calories on the club's two tennis courts or rent a bicycle from the hotel. Those who move at a quieter pace will appreciate the unspoiled beauty of three mile long Queen's Beach.

Chub Cay Undersea Adventures' dive shop faces the Marina and the slips where its two dive boats dock. The craft reflect Neal Watson's personal preference in design: The 40 foot *Sharkbuster* and the 30 foot *Humble Two* have plenty of open deck space, are diesel powered and equipped with diver friendly platforms. Although the vessels are capable

Right: Neal Watson. Below: Chub Cay Club room's have air-conditioning, color TV, refrigerator and complimentary coffee/tea service.



Chub Cay Club offers the ambiance of a small, out-island environment coupled with the service of a well established yacht club. The pool is near the rooms.

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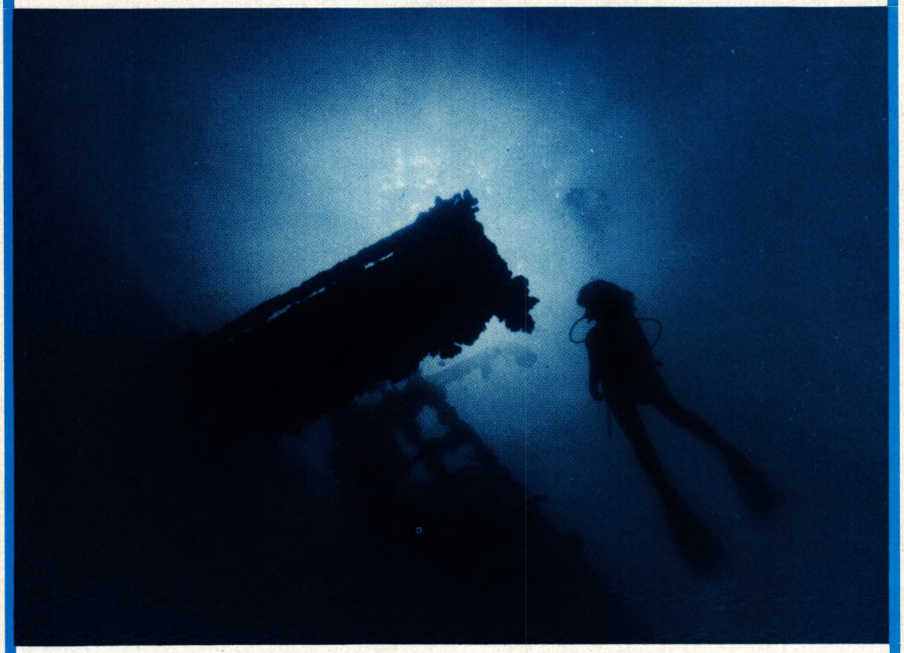

Dive packages include 7 nights/8 days hotel accommodations, bonus features, round-trip airport/hotel transfers and unlimited diving. Also available 5 nights/6 days and 3 nights/4 days. For information, bookings and air transportation contact:

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CHUB CAY

of handling a crowd, Neal won't permit more than 22 divers on the *Sharkbuster* or more than 12 passengers on the *Humble Two*.

Kevin English, Neal Watson's resident divemaster and video pro, doesn't believe in making guests carry tanks; he figures their hands should be free to carry Nikonoses and video housings. Besides, who really wants to work on vacation? Just inside the dive shop's main door, to the left of the service counter, is the guests' gear storage room. At the time of this writing, work was underway to complete the photo lab and video center. The new facility will connect to the right side of the dive shop. Undersea Adventures offers camera rentals and E-6 processing. Many guests elect to have Kevin shoot them feeding the tame grouper or diving along the wall; they leave with a custom tape from Kevin that includes both their personal footage and some of Kevin's special stock images from around Chub Cay.

Looking for year-round great diving? Go to Chub Cay. During the winter, the frequent northeast winds can cause trouble for some locations, but not Chub. Its reefs lie in the sheltering lee of the island. Combine this with the proximity of the dive sites that are, as Kevin English put it, "embarrassingly close to the resort," and you end up with 10 or 15 minute boat rides to calm water even on windy days.

For your first dive you may visit Truck Lagoon. Like so many of the area's sites it has a stair step profile. You can pick your depth on coral ridges from 20 to 60 feet. While you play around the airplane cabin in 25 feet, don't be surprised if one of the resident gray angelfish swims by looking for a handout. Around the many truck chassis and bodies you can spot tiger and Nassau groupers, banded and spotfin butterflyfish and spadefish.

Be sure to dive at Caves and Caverns. This shallow reef starts in just 15 feet with sand channels dropping to 30 feet in spots. Arrowcrabs and banded coral shrimp are common. Silvery fry gather in the narrow canyons and deep overhangs. Crinoids adorn the coral heads.

At Mama Rhoda Rock you can scuba or snorkel around a fantastic elkhorn garden. Near Mama Rhoda Rock, several coral ridges fan out from a central point. The two highest fingers define Grouper Gully. Look for huge tiger groupers under the coral shelves. Lobsters hide in the deeper recesses of the reef. Snappers and grunts school in several places here.

Bring some hotdogs to the reef at Angeltown if you want to collect a crowd. French and gray angelfish will compete

(Continued on Page 114)

The other side of Nassau.

Peter Hughes at "Runway"

All underwater photos were taken within 20 minutes of our diveshop.

Dive South Ocean. Experience wilderness diving just offshore of the finest daytime activities the fabulous Bahamas have to offer. **Divi Bahamas Beach Resort & Country Club** and **Peter Hughes Dive South Ocean** are located on the secluded southwestern shore of Nassau's New Providence Island. Gorgeous beaches and rolling countryside border this complete dive resort featuring an official Hi-Fly windsurfing school, pool, lighted tennis complex and 18-hole golf course... everything for the diver, snorkeler, and non-diver, alike!

Now you can dive the spectacular drop-offs of the dramatic Tongue of the Ocean, underwater film locations of James Bond, *Jaws IV, Cocoon,* and *Splash!* And, you're assured of the same standards of safety, comfort and dependability you've come to expect from the other Peter Hughes dive operations located throughout the Caribbean. For reservations call 800-367-3484 or see your dive travel professional.

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Divi Hotels Marketing Inc., 54 Gunderman Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, 607-277-3484.

SKIN DIVER'S

TRAVEL TIPS

How Much Will You Spend?

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

Travel advertisements and brochures do not always tell the entire story when it comes to the price of a dive vacation. Many incidental costs are left out to keep the price low, or because they are so variable they are impossible for the packager to calculate. Yet items such as tipping, sodas, taxi fares, snacks, airport tax and so on can total up to quite a bill at the end of a week.

Since each person's desires may be different, many packages are based on a minimum amount of diving (two per day). Additional or more advanced activities often cost extra and are called "package upgrades" or "optional selections."

The same thing is generally true for accommodations, meals and other activities. The package price is almost always based on "double occupancy," meaning two guests to a room. Guests insisting on

BUDGET OUTLINE

Taxi from home to airport	_____	Tips for divemaster and crew	_____
Airport tips	_____	Watersports equipment rentals	_____
Air fare from home to gateway city	_____	Fishing charter x days	_____
		Sightseeing tour	_____
Refreshments on plane	_____	Car rental	_____
Tips at gateway airport	_____	Souvenirs	_____
Meal at gateway airport	_____	Hotel taxes & gratuities for week	_____
Air fare from gateway to island	_____	Tips for hotel check-out	_____
Taxi from airport to hotel	_____	Taxi from hotel to airport	_____
Tips for hotel check-in	_____	Tips for airport check-in	_____
Hotel/dive package for 7 nights	_____	Airport departure tax	_____
Lunch x number of days	_____	Refreshments on plane	_____
Dinner x number of days	_____	Meal at gateway airport layover	_____
Cocktails x number of days	_____	Tips at home airport	_____
One tank afternoon dive x days	_____	Taxi from airport to home	_____
One tank night dive x nights	_____		
Rental dive gear x days	_____	Total	_____

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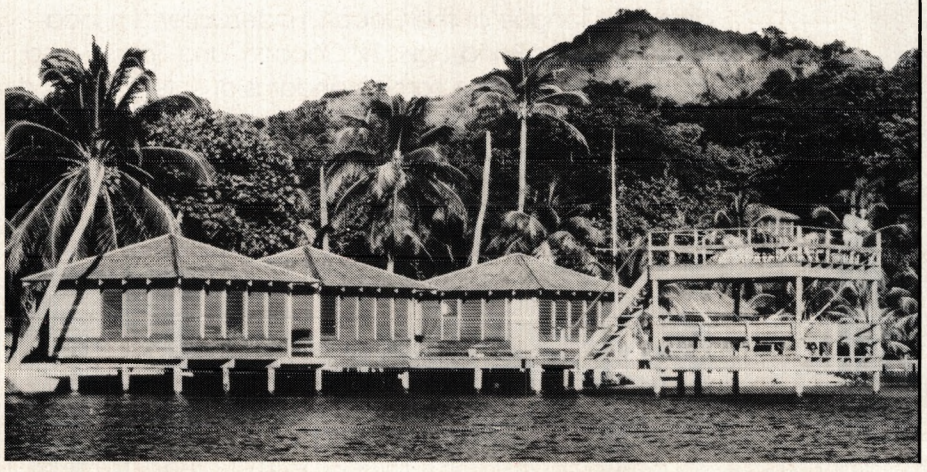

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Florida 305 858-3483 (DIVE)

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a single occupancy room will have to pay extra, provided there is a single room available. At large hotels, packages are usually based on a "standard room." An upgrade to a "superior" or "deluxe" room will cost extra. Dive packages that include meals are usually limited to breakfast and dinner; lunch is extra. Each resort does this a little differently, so you have take special care to read the fine

print. Alcoholic drinks are almost never included and at some resorts even canned or bottled beverages are considered extras.

The only all-encompassing dive packages are usually live-aboard boats and hotels on remote islands where no other services are available. While these packages may seem to be very high priced at first, you will usually discover they are often the best bargains.

In order for you to fully comprehend the cost of a dive vacation, you should first create your own vacation budget. Start by listing all of the anticipated costs including the package price, air fares, incidentals, extras and tips. It is a good idea to list these in chronological order so you don't miss anything.

Our sidebar is a suggested budget outline for a typical overseas dive vacation to a popular Caribbean island. It is based on the assumption you are living somewhere in middle America and must first fly to a gateway city in order to connect with your overseas flight.

As you can see, there are a lot of small items, but they can really add up in a hurry. In most cases, the cost of the extras and incidentals can equal the cost of the basic dive package. A general rule of thumb is to double the cost of the package and you will have a pretty good idea of the entire per person cost of a one week vacation. Add airfare to this and prepare for "sticker shock!"

According to SKIN DIVER's 1987 Subscriber Survey, traveling divers pay an average of $1,598 per person for a one week, overseas vacation. This includes everything from air fare to cocktails. Now, you may find lower priced packages and even a bargain here and there, but there are usually trade-offs involved. These may be in the form of fewer dives or more basic hotel accommodations or inexpensive meals.

Once you have added up every incidental expense you can possibly imagine, add 30 percent to the total. This will provide a little cushion for unexpected expenditures. You wouldn't want a whole vacation spoiled because you are a few dollars short.

Peter Hughes Dive Bonaire, and **Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino** continue to be recognized as the world's most versatile and complete dive resort and the standard by which others are measured.

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Dive Bonaire caters to the dreams and needs of divers of all levels of experience — beginners, intermediates or advanced. Flamingo Beach Resort and Dive Bonaire are paying attention to the details which have made it *the* place divers return to year after year to be assured of a safe and completely hassle-free dive vacation.

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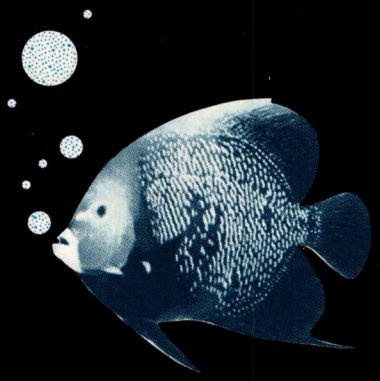

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CHUB CAY

(Continued from Page 110)

with the Nassau groupers, coneys and hinds for your attention and your food. The yellowtails will probably follow you up to the dive boat. Out on the sand flats you may see the garden eels swaying to their own rhythm or spot a jack hanging above a southern stingray as it searches the sand for food.

Overlook earned its name because the coral ridge at 70 feet rises above the slope leading down to the wall. This is one of several locations where you can easily swim over large black coral trees and colorful tube and basket sponges. Kevin is developing a friendship with two resident eagle rays whose wingspan exceeds five feet!

The reef drops vertically from 80 feet straight down into the inky blue at Dynamite Wall. It is hard to decide whether you should admire the colorful growth on the drop-off or stare out into the blue water to catch a glimpse of passing schools of tuna and mackerel. Chub Cay is truly a fish watcher's paradise.

By working with Southern Outbound Air, Inc. Undersea Adventures can fly out of Ft. Lauderdale at 10:00 am and get you comfortably situated on Chub with plenty of time to make a two tank afternoon boat trip. On your departure date there is an afternoon flight to permit you time to make a two tank morning excursion. On a three day/two night stay you can make seven dives or, if you stay for eight days/seven nights, you can do a waterlogging 22! Obviously, Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures believes in giving you more dives for the dollar.

Getting to Chub Cay is as easy as dialing the Chub Cay Undersea Adventures toll free number; (800) 327-8150. In Florida and Canada dial (305) 763-2188. Direct your mail to P.O. Box 21766, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335. With one call you can have Undersea Adventures charter your flight from either Ft. Lauderdale, Florida or Nassau, Bahamas to Chub Cay; reserve your room; and book your diving. For an extra treat, on your way to or from Chub Cay, let Undersea Adventures reserve a space for you to tour the wrecks and reefs of Ft. Lauderdale on the 48 foot dive boat *Dry Martini*.

NIKONOS SEMINARS

(Continued from Page 107)

inches. For custom enlargements from slides, a Cibachrome processor is used to make 8 x 10, 11 x 14 or even 16 x 20 prints from the customer's film or from Jerry and Suzie's extensive file of stock photography. In addition to the obvious emphasis on underwater photography, Photo Bonaire also features a fairly complete line of topside Nikon and Kodak cameras, lenses, film, books, post cards,

picture frames, filters and accessories.

Photo Bonaire possibly features the world's most extensive inventory of U/W cameras for rental. Nikonos II, III, IV and V camera bodies are available in addition to a complete line of Nikonos lenses including 15, 20, and 28mm. Photo Bonaire also has a loaner program sanctioned by Nikon. This means, for example, that if a sync cord doesn't work, a camera body malfunctions or a strobe is defective, a loaner unit will be provided free of charge by Photo Bonaire. The only provision is the problem has to have occurred while on vacation as a guest of the Flamingo Beach Resort and the loan is only for the duration of the vacation.

This loaner program has been expanded for the Nikonos seminars and provides the use of the different lenses and accessories beyond the basic camera and strobe at no additional charge to seminar participants. Photo Bonaire also offers instruction in underwater still photography every day, from the novice to experienced level, in the form of one, two or three day courses customized to the needs of individual divers. These may lead to either a NAUI or PADI photo specialty certification.

A further testament to the commitment and credibility of the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort and Casino as a destination for underwater photographers is its selection by Nikon as host hotel for the Great Nikonos Shootout being held June 11-18, 1988. The collaboration of Dive Bonaire and Nikon, Inc. is providing wonderful new educational and recreational underwater photographic opportunities in a location that combines excellent diving with a professional resort dive infrastructure.

For further information about the Nikonos Pro Photo Seminars, please phone (800) 345-0322. Mail inquiries may be directed to Dive Bonaire/Divi Hotels, 54 Gunderman Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

USN TABLES OBSOLETE?

(Continued from Page 8)

So, what is the bottom line? Put simply, life is about to get more complex, especially for boat operators, divemasters, instructors, resorts and stores. Everyone will have to become familiar with two separate (and acceptable) dive tables. They are equally safe, but not interchangeable.

The split will occur gradually over a period of two to three years, but it will most certainly come. At last count, PADI was certifying seven out of every ten divers in the United States. It will not be long before many PADI courses begin producing enlightened scuba students using new multilevel tables. The wheels of progress roll on.

Get A Close-up
INTRODUCTION
in the March skindiver

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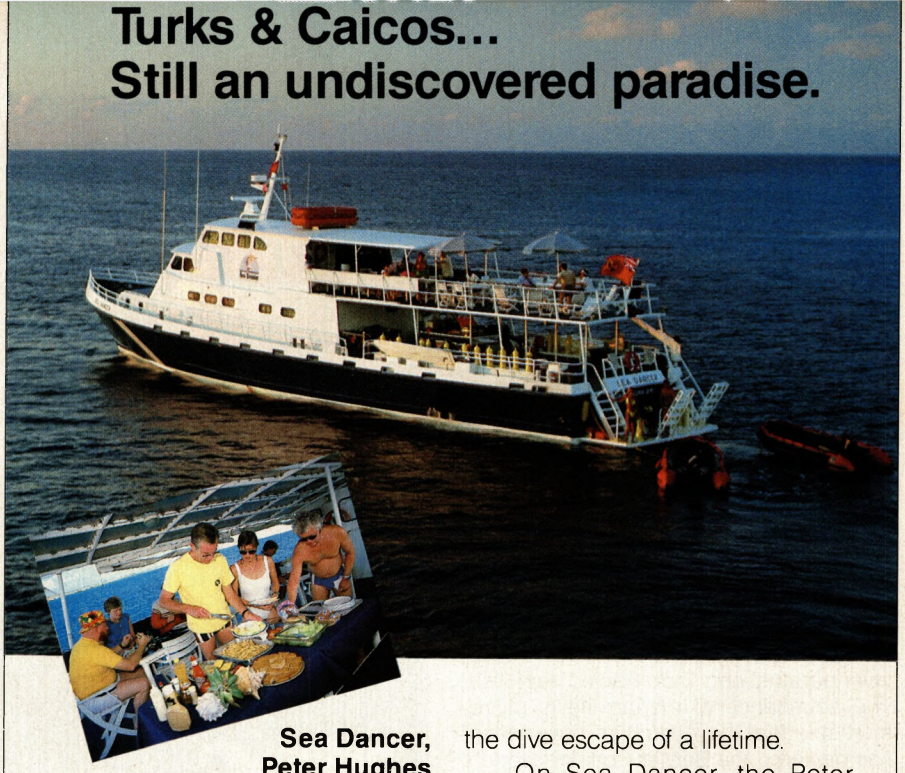

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Diving News From Down Under

Great Barrier Reef's Five Best Dive Spots

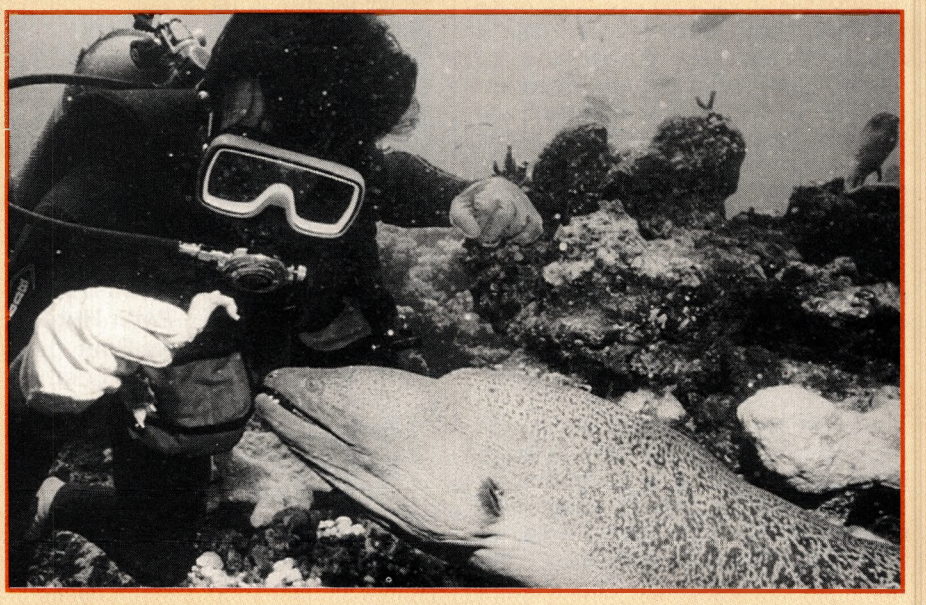
TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

The Great Barrier Reef is regarded as one of the Seven Underwater Wonders of the World. Running parallel to Australia's northeastern coast, it spans 1,200 miles of living coral reefs. Often described as the world's largest living thing, the Great Barrier Reef is packed with an incredible variety of hard and soft corals, invertebrates and Indo-Pacific reef fish. The abundance of marine life is so remarkable that the Australian government has declared the Barrier Reef the world's largest marine park.

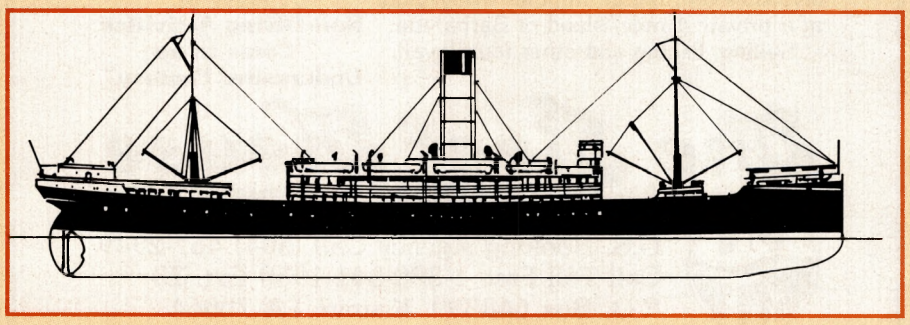
Needless to say, there are thousands of dive sites along this vast stretch of South Pacific ocean, but only a few are remarkably unique. The following is a brief description of the five most popular dive areas along the Great Barrier Reef.

Heron Island: At the southern inside end of the Barrier Reef, 50 miles off the Australian coast, is a small resort on a tiny island. A large circular reef surrounds it and offers an opportunity to explore no less than 35 dive sites—mostly shallow, from 10-70 feet. Heron Island Reef is loaded with living corals, macro critters, small soft corals and tons of tame fish. While visibility is not the best (usually 50 feet), the prolific marine life makes this spot a unique underwater zoo. There are at least one dozen fish feeding stations and an opportunity to shoot close-up photos of coral trout, batfish, barramundi, sweetlips, moray eels and a dozen other species. Heron is also great for macro photography of wildly colored nudibranchs, clownfish and other critters.

Heron Island Reef can be dived by staying at the Heron Island Resort and taking the resort dive boat to the reef twice daily for a one tank dive.



Heron Island, Bait Reef, *Yongala* (below), Ribbons Reefs and Cod Hole are all on the Great Barrier Reef. In addition to the fabulous marine life found throughout this system, these sites offer unique adventures.



Bait Reef: In the Whitsunday Islands area, Bait Reef is 18 miles from Hayman Island. The underwater visibility is quite good because it is close to the outer edge of the Barrier Reef.

There is a small circular coral atoll formation with a barrier reef that comes right to the surface. Diving depths range from 10-100 feet with several vertical drop-offs. There are excellent fish feeding stations inside Bait Reef in calm waters only 30 feet deep. There are spectacular coral formations on the outside of the reef. Also, there are frequent encounters with manta rays, small sharks, moray eels and other exciting marine life.

Bait Reef can be dived by staying at the new Hayman Island Resort and going out on the *Reef Goddess* for a two tank dive.

SS *Yongala*: Unquestionably the most unique shipwreck in the South Pacific, the wreck is inside the Barrier Reef, in the middle of a deep shipping channel. The *Yongala* was a 350 foot long cargo/passenger steamship that disappeared in 1911. It was lost for 35 years before being discovered by divers. Today, she lies in 80 feet of water, overgrown with marine life. Serving as a beacon on a flat seabed, the wreck is a veritable fishbowl with schools continuously swirling around the hulk. The marine life is actually layered above the shipwreck: Pacific barracudas, jacks, turtles, sea snakes and much more. On the wreck itself, divers encounter large potato cod, shovelnose sharks and giant Queensland groupers the size of a living room sofa.

The *Yongala* can be dived from liveaboard boats out of Townsville, such as the *Super Sport* or the *Water Sport*. It can also be dived from a day boat from the Four Seasons Barrier Reef floating resort hotel anchored at John Brewer Reef.

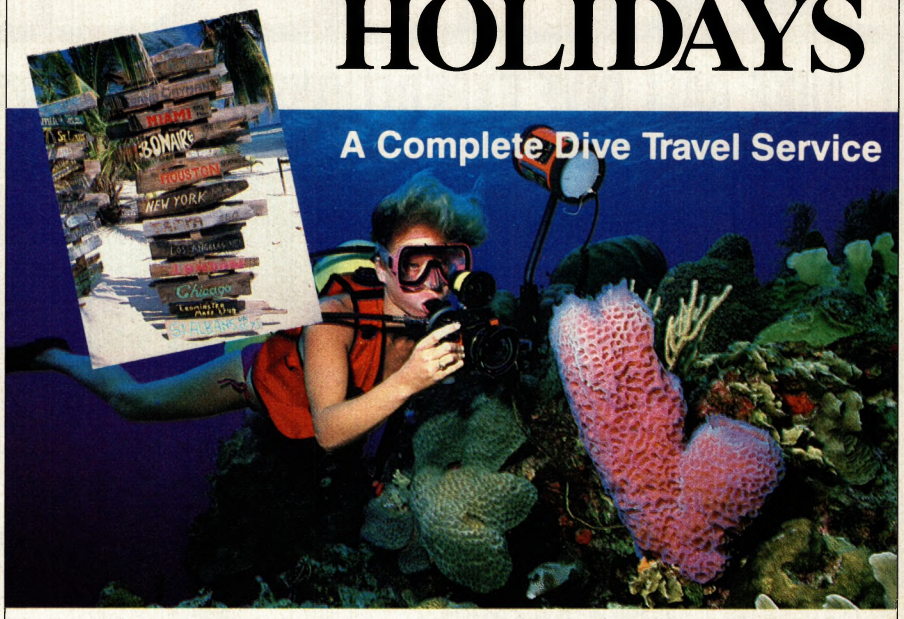
Ribbons Reefs: Approximately 80 miles north of Cairns is a long chain of reefs along the outer edge of the Barrier Reef known as the Ribbons. Starting at the southern end they are numbered: Ribbon #1, Ribbon #2 and so on, up to Ribbon #10 at the northern end. They span a distance of 60 miles. Only accessible to live-aboard dive boats, the Ribbons remain undisturbed and unmolested by normal tourism.

Some of the most memorable dive sites among the Ribbons include Snake Gully, a 15-60 foot dive on a reef loaded with colorful crinoids, fabulous soft corals, loads of clownfish and a growing community of friendly sea snakes. Five and a Half is a drift dive through a pass loaded with soft corals and giant seafans. Silvertip City is a high voltage fish feeding station favored by sharks, potato cod and pelagics. Pixie Pinnacle is a 40-60 foot deep pinnacle inside the Ribbons that is a haven for macro critters and makes a great night dive.

The Ribbons can be reached by liveaboards out of Cairns, such as the *Corali-*

(Continued on Page 122)

Air Hotel Scuba **DIVI HOLIDAYS**



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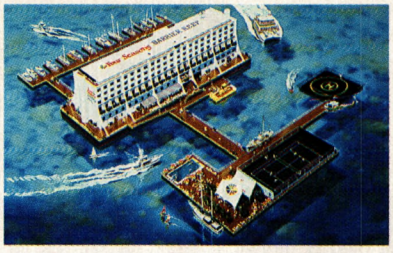

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New Guinea—Over the last 3 years, the Reef Explorer has discovered some of the most exotic diving in northeastern New Guinea around the island of New Britain-Madang, Kimbe, Rabaul. Chris Newbert described a recent trip as "simply awesome, best diving I have ever done".

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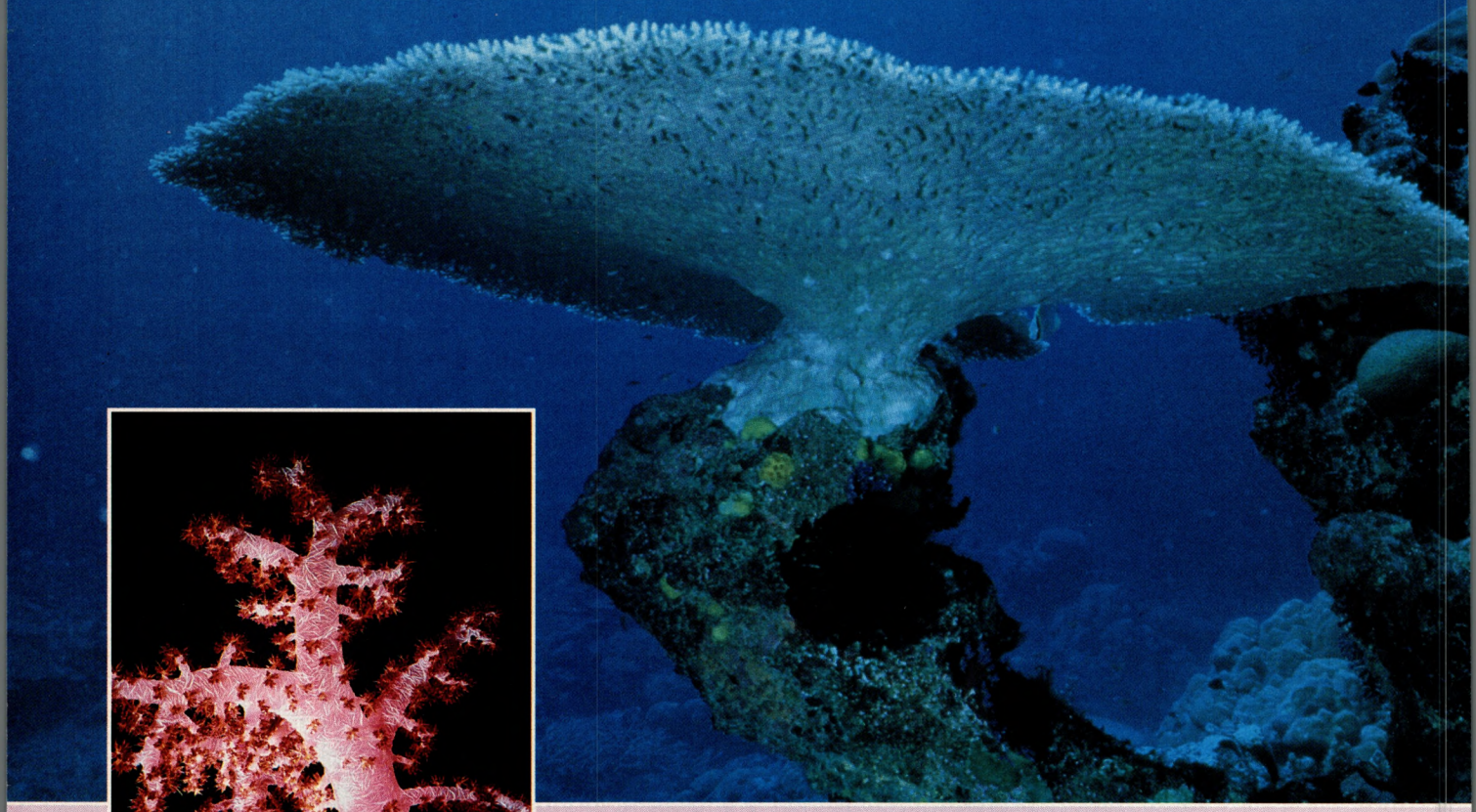
H A Y M A N

WORLDS APART

Dateline Micronesia

Pohnpei—A Pacific Paradise

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

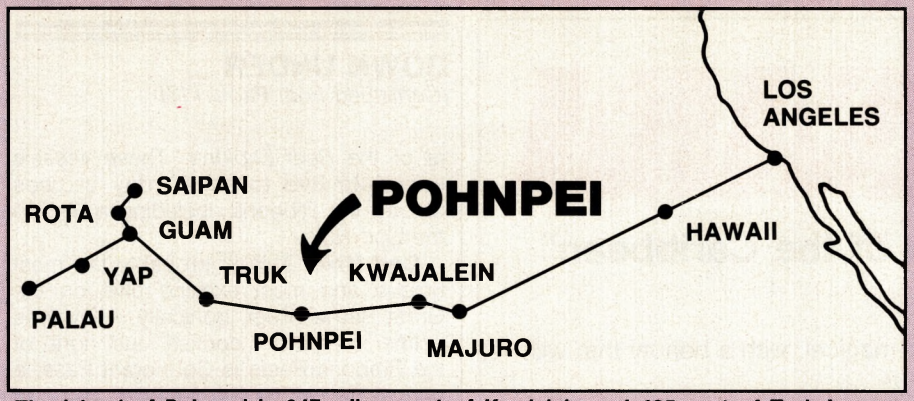


Top: A table coral formation at the top of the drop-off, Pohnpei. Left: A soft coral formation. Below: The Village resort on the mountain overlooking the lagoon.

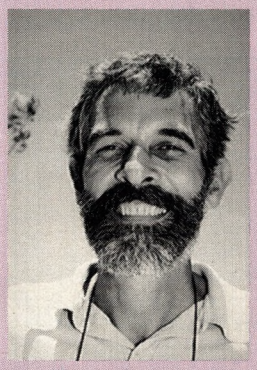
Pohnpei (formerly called Ponape) is the picture post card image of a tropical paradise. This high volcanic island is blessed with lush green vegetation, cascading waterfalls, winding streams and tropical rain forests. Flowers and fruit grow everywhere and the friendly island residents welcome visitors.

Mountainous Pohnpei is encircled by a living coral barrier reef, plus some 25 small islands and cays. Outside the barrier reef, the coral drops straight away, forming a breathtaking series of vertical walls where underwater visibility exceeds 150 feet and fish abound.

The scenic treasures of this marvelous circular island, combined with superb coral reefs, make Pohnpei a five star choice for divers who are accompanied by nondiver companions. Although it may not have high rise hotels, fancy nightclubs and trendy beaches, it does offer something much rarer—a natural beauty and a unique insight into a Micronesian culture unchanged for centuries.



The island of Pohnpei is 647 miles west of Kwajalein and 435 east of Truk Lagoon.



Above: Continental/Air Micronesia 727 jet. Left: Bob Arthur, owner/operator of The Village. Below left: Waterfall near Nan Madol. Below right: The Village's catamaran dive boat.

Pohnpei is the third Micronesian island in the westbound route of Air Micronesia's journey from Honolulu to Guam. It lies 647 miles west of Kwajalein and only 435 miles east of Truk Lagoon. A large landing strip at the northern tip of the island can easily accommodate Air Mike's 727 jets. The airport also serves a smaller inter-island airline that operates flights to the nearby island of Kosrae.

Volcanic in nature, Pohnpei is much different from the flat coral atolls in the Marshall Islands or Truk Lagoon. This is a large, singular island with mountain peaks rising more than 1,200 feet. The vegetation can only be described as "super tropical" for it rains at least once a day. The island contains 23 rivers and streams that empty into the rich mangrove bays and coves that surround it.

Kolonia is Pohnpei's major city and the seat of government. More than 10,000 islanders now live there. Pohnpei offers as much to see on land as U/W for it is one of the few Micronesian islands that has ruins from every period of its history. The stone city of Nan Madol is a mysterious product of early Micronesian development. Built on the inner edge of the barrier reef is a sophisticated complex of 100 manmade islands and stone paved canals. The walls of the main buildings are 40 feet high, 18 feet thick and constructed of stone (basalt) logs weighing several tons each. How this city was constructed, and the identity of the lost civilization that built it, remain a puzzle.

Other interesting historical sites include the remnants of a Spanish conquistador fort dating back to the 16th century. A German cemetery contains gravestone legends of early 20th century colonialism. The ruins of an electrical generator plant provide mute evidence of Japanese occupation during World War II. Additional side trips include a visit to a Polynesian village, shopping at the handicraft co-op, or a picnic at one of Pohnpei's three magnificent waterfalls. And, don't pass up the opportunity to shop for spices—Pohnpei produces some of the world's finest gourmet pepper.

Pohnpei presently has one-half dozen or so hotels and three dive operations. The most popular of these among visiting American divers is a lovely hillside resort called The Village. Six miles from the airport, this Micronesia style hotel was built

(Continued on Page 130)

ISLAND FACTS

Location	Central Micronesia 1,067 miles east of Guam
Size	14 miles long, 12 miles wide
Type	Tropical, volcanic, encircled by barrier reef
Elevation	2,566 feet
Population	20,000
Language	English, Kosraean
Currency	U.S. dollars
Government	Federated States of Micronesia
Airport	Accommodates 727 jets
Air Service	Air Micronesia from Truk/Guam (eastbound) and Kwajalein/Honolulu (westbound) Pacific Missionary Aviation to Kosrae
Lodging	6 hotels
Electricity	120 volts AC, 60 cycles
Dive Services	3 dive operators
Capital	Kolonia
Sights	Lost city of Nan Madol, Kepirohi waterfalls, Spanish wall, German cemetary, handicraft co-op, Polynesian village

MICRONESIA DIVE TOUR OPERATORS

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DOWN UNDER

(Continued from Page 117)

ta or the *Reef Explorer*. These vessels schedule five to seven day cruises among the Ribbons, including a visit to the Cod Hole.

Cod Hole: This is probably the most unique and most exciting dive on the Great Barrier Reef. Ironically, it involves neither a hole nor codfish. Just north of the Ribbons Reefs is Cormorant Pass, a narrow gap in the Barrier Reef. Living in the pass at 40-60 feet is a resident community of 15-19 giant white groupers known as Australian potato cod.

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The great fish range in size from 75-200 pounds each. They are three to five feet long and look something like an underwater dirigible. They are exceptionally friendly and can be handfed.They love to be patted, petted and have their bellies rubbed. Also in the same area are several very large and friendly moray eels. Measuring six to seven feet in length, these Australian morays will come right out of their lairs to be fed.

The Cod Hole can be dived from liveaboard boats that come from Cairns or a day boat from Lizard Island Resort. It is a favorite stop for the *Reef Explorer* and the *Coralita*.

For more information about diving trips to the Great Barrier Reef, contact one of the specialty travel agents listed in our sidebar.

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Sand Dollar Dive and Photo, in addition to offering open water through divemaster courses in five languages, now offers five specialty courses. All courses may be taken in English, Spanish, German, Dutch or Swedish. Instructors Andre Nahr and Pamela Teitel are both able to teach the specialties, so the courses are available upon request.

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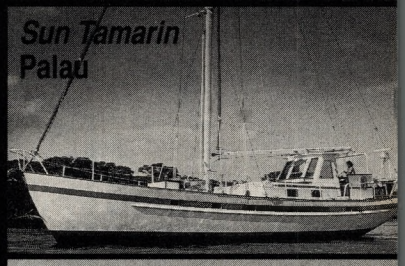

Sun Tamarin
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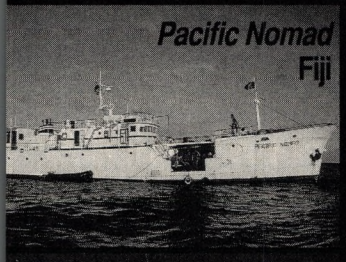

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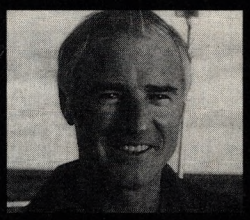

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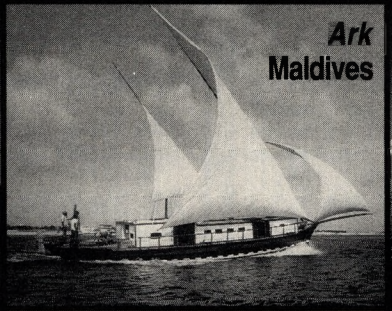

Ark
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Reef Explorer
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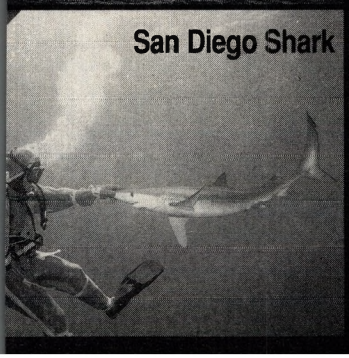
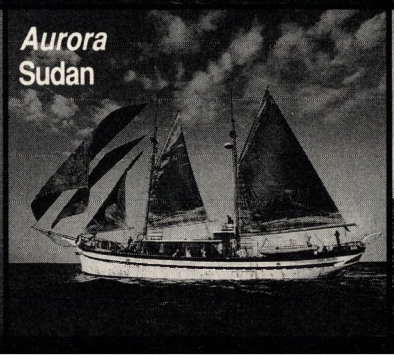
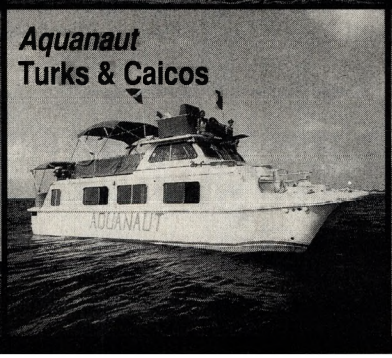


San Diego Shark



Aurora
Sudan



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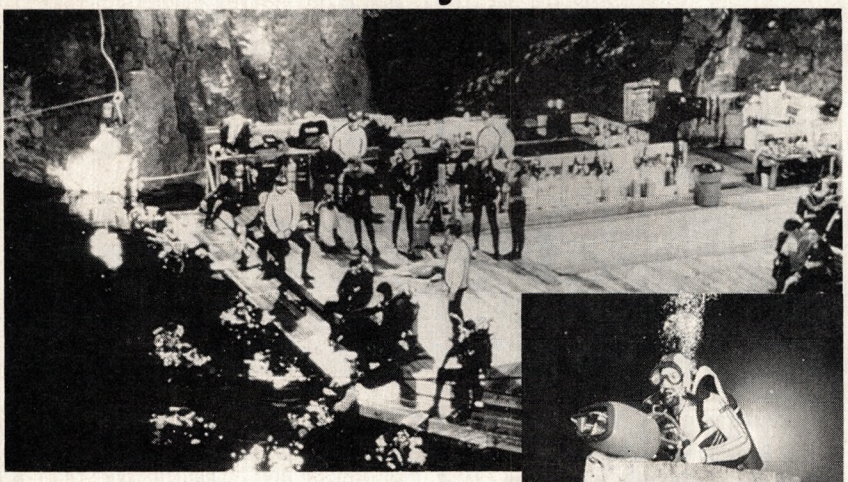

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LOOE KEY ECOLOGICAL TOURS

Seven day, guided ecological tours of the coral reef at Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary now include marine life survey activities to aid resource management in the sanctuary. Working in conjunction with sanctuary manager Billy D. Causey, ReefQuest Expeditions' tour groups will catalogue all longspine urchins (*Diadema antillarum*) and false corals (*Ricordia floridae*) sighted during trips. The tour program, based in the Lower Florida Keys, provides a detailed field orientation to coral reef natural history and exploration of the sanctuary's many distinct habitat zones.

The data, gathered by both snorkel and scuba tour participants, will help biologists track the distribution of false coral and the recovery of urchin populations within the sanctuary. Longspine urchins were almost wiped out throughout most of the Caribbean several years ago by an as-yet unexplained plague.

Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary was selected for these reef ecology tours because of its spectacularly scenic coral canyons, unsurpassed fish and coral species diversity, variety of habitats accessible to both snorkelers and divers, rare pillar coral stands and giant brain coral formations. The reef's status as a federal marine sanctuary makes it possible for tour members to explore an almost undisturbed reef community.

Each tour is limited to 14 participants, with snorkel and scuba groups scheduled separately. Hotel accommodations are part of this all-inclusive, seven day tour package. Brochure, tour dates and detailed itinerary are available from ReefQuest Expeditions, P.O. Box 560374, Miami, FL 33156-0374.

SCUBA-FIND

The ever increasing problem of finding adequately trained personnel has held many dive store operations back. Potential employees as well seem to be having difficulty locating would be employers. To correct this problem, Ocean Pleasure Services, Inc. now offers Scuba Find. Member stores make one phone call when additional staff is needed. Copies of pre-qualified resumes are sent directly to personnel managers.

The yearly member store fee of $75 entitles the personnel manager to as many as 15 pre-qualified resumes per membership period.

Any person seeking a position in the dive industry should send a resume (complete with list of desired employment locations) along with the $24.95 handling fee to Scuba-Find, c/o Ocean Pleasure Services, Inc., P.O. Box 3075, Key Largo, FL 33037; (305) 852-3755.

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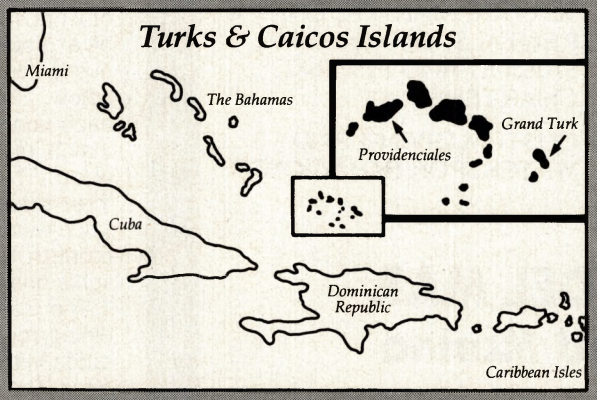

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MICRONESIA

(Continued on Page 121)

and is run by two American expatriates, Bob and Patti Arthur. The resort consists of 21 private bungalows, built on the side of a mountain at a height of 150 feet, overlooking the barrier reef and lagoon below. Set apart for maximum privacy, each bungalow is crafted of handwoven thatch, mahogany lumber and mangrove wood. The bungalows are screened on three sides for maximum cooling from the trade winds. They contain overhead fans, modern toilets, stall showers, electric lights and comfortable beds.

The main hotel structure consists of a dining room, cocktail bar and large veranda with a magnificent view of the lagoon. The meals are excellent, with an offering of both American cuisine and special Micronesian dishes such as steamed mangrove crab.

Owner Bob Arthur is also an avid diver and maintains a scuba center right on the premises. The Village has its own air compressor, air storage system, 50 scuba tanks and assorted accessories. It maintains a small fleet of three boats used for scuba diving, snorkeling, sightseeing and tours of Nan Madol.

Since Pohnpei is surrounded by a barrier reef and drop-offs, diving is quite good on just about any side of the island. There are more than 21 different passes that lead from the inner lagoon to the outside of the reef, thus affording convenient access to the coral walls. Much of the diving is done on the northeast side of the barrier reef as this is close to the hotel. The drop-off generally starts at 40 feet, with the top edge of the wall covered in a magnificent array of Pacific hard corals. These marvelous sculptured formations can be absolutely breathtaking.

Pohnpei is especially known for its amazing variety and abundance of crinoids. They come in a multitude of different colors and often cluster in groups of six or eight. Also seen on the upper edge of the wall are many carpet anemones with resident clownfish of several species. These pixie-like creatures are a source of unlimited entertainment and provide the perfect subjects for close-up photography. Growing out from the vertical wall are giant seafans of many colors, some measuring six feet in height.

The fish action on the outside of the wall can be exciting. Sharks are often sighted and photographed at the entrances of coral reef passes. At the northern tip of the reef, divers often see schools of jacks and sometimes big tuna. Large manta rays are frequently seen in the fall months, beginning with October. Their wingspans often reach 12 feet.

Pohnpei is also well known for its shelling. The outer edge of the barrier reef is home to the golden cowry—one of the

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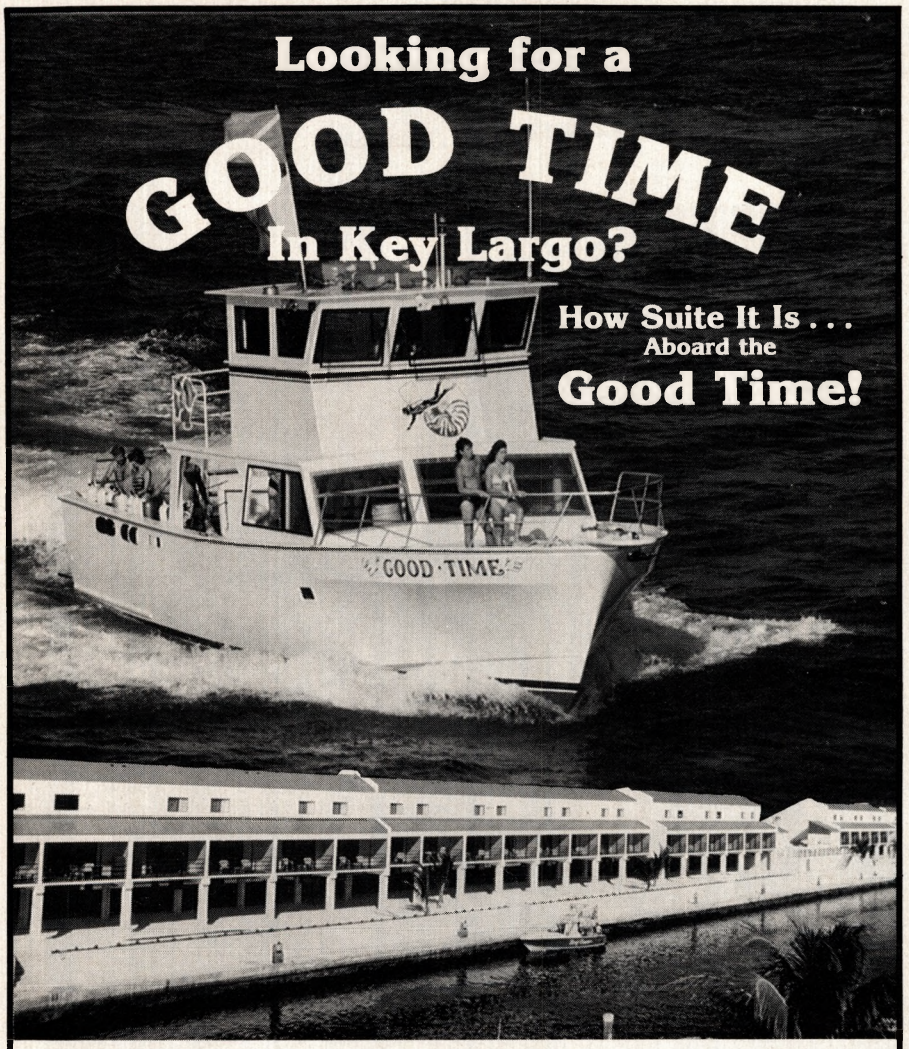

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MICRONESIA

rarest and most beautiful of all seashells. Growing to the size and shape of a large lemon, the golden cowry is a deep, lustrous orange. At least one dozen of these rare shells have been found by visitors. (All were dead shells.)

For more information about visiting Pohnpei, contact one of the agencies in our sidebar that arranges dive trips to Micronesia.

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Kona Kai Diving offers something new in diving holidays—natural and cultural history tours. Operating off the Kona Coast of Hawaii, Kona Kai Diving caters to those with a flexible itinerary.

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COMPUTER DIVER'S LOG

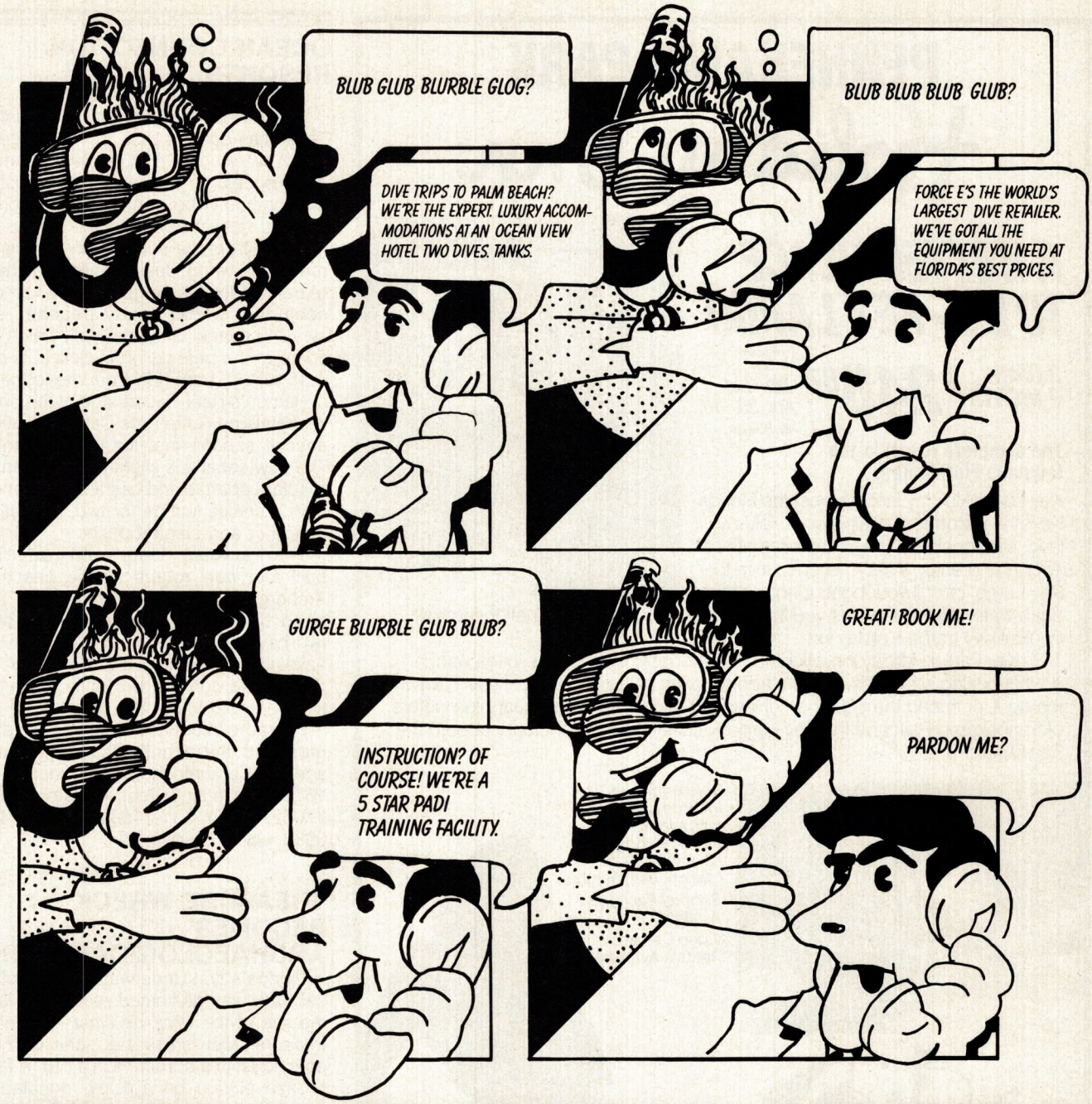
PC Fuel Co. has released version 1.1 of the Computer Diver's Log. The new version adds new functions to the Diver's Log and maintains complete compatibility with the original Diver's Logbook files.

The first new function—Log Search by Main Activity—lets you search your log for the particular activity (photography, spearfishing, abalone diving, etc.) you are interested in reviewing. The other new function—Checklist Generator—lets you create and store, on disk, checklists for each type of diving you do, so you don't forget to pack important items.

This program allows you to log a minimum of 132 dives on one single sided/single density floppy disk (the kind used with most home PCs). Capabilities include: automatically searches disk for dives by location name; reviews all or any part of log by dive number; thumb-through function quickly lists location names with associated dive number; printout of all or any part of log for hard-copy, as many times as necessary; hard-copy printouts are automatically personalized with your name and address; Dive Log files can be transmitted over phone lines via modem.

The program is easy to use and self-explanatory. It automatically formats disks. A menu driven program can be operated at the push of a key.

The program is available for the Commodore 128 (128 mode) and C64 computers. The price is $37.95 postpaid. California residents add $2.27 sales tax. For information contact PC Fuel Company, P.O. Box 3294, San Mateo, CA 94403-0294; (415) 349-9702.



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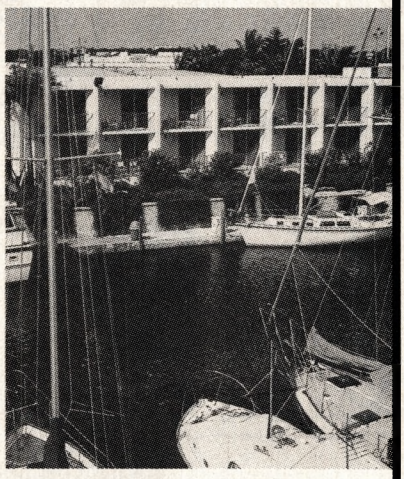

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OCEAN CONNECTION RESORTS

The Ocean Connection of Houston, Texas has opened Blue Marlin Lodge on South Water Caye, Belize, Central America. It is ideal for the serious diver, fisherman or those who want excellent snorkeling and relaxing on a private island just 120 feet from the second longest barrier reef in the world. Just 35 miles southeast of Belize City, the lodge is nestled among secluded, white, sandy beaches and swaying palms. Glover's Atoll, which has some of the best diving in Belize, is only a 15 minute boat ride from the lodge.

Ramon's Reef Resort, one of the popular hotels on Ambergris Caye has built a special cabaña just for honeymooners. The new cabaña is slightly larger than the regular cabañas and has a brass canopy bed, a chaise lounge for two, a small refrigerator and elegant decor.

The Paradise Resort and Hotel has built four new rooms on the beach on Ambergris Caye. Two rooms have king sized beds and kitchenettes. The other two have twin beds and no kitchens. All have air-conditioning and tile baths. It's possible to connect two units, making a two bedroom unit with a kitchen.

For more information and free literature regarding these and other hotel packages, call or write the Ocean Connection, 16730 El Camino Real, Houston, Texas 77062; (800) 331-2458 or (713) 486-6993.

TREASURE WRECK BECOMES ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

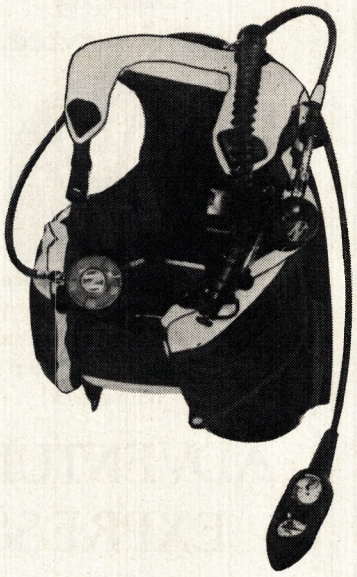
Florida's first Underwater Archaeological Park was dedicated recently. It is on the site of the *Urca de Lima*—one of 13 treasure-laden ships that sank off Florida's coast in a hurricane in 1715. A large bronze plaque on a buoy, donated by Dixie Divers, marks the site of this historic galleon, which is in 12 feet of water 200 yards off the north end of Pepper Park in Fort Pierce. It is an easy area for both divers and snorkelers to get to. Maps and additional historical information can be picked up at any Dixie Divers Store.

The shipwreck is also referred to as the Wedge Wreck, because of the pieces of silver cut in the shape of wedges found by salvors in the 1960s.

Roger C. Smith, Department of State archaeologist, and Tommy Gore, area representative for the Division of Archives—who made this project possible—will work with Dixie Divers to provide a course on archaeological mapping, cleaning and preserving artifacts and other points of interest regarding this field.

For more information contact Rick Weaver at Dixie Divers of Stuart, Inc., 1839 SE Federal Highway, Stuart, FL 34944; (305) 283-5588.

SHERWOOD PACKAGE



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35 MM U/W Photo. Workshop **Feb. 14**
Learn from the Photo professionals. Workshop covers housed cameras and Nikonos cameras. Topics include: Macro, wide angle, care, special effects, composing, flashes, and much more. A must for any underwater photographer. Sunday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
Lombard Facility ***$75.00***

Equipment Specialist **Feb. 28**
PADI Specialty Certification
We'll cover regulators, BCD's, valves, wet and dry suits, photo gear, and more! Learn what to do for flooded equipment, proper storage, and more! PADI specialty certification. Sunday from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.
Chicago Facility ***$75.00***

HBO Chamber Orientation **Feb. 27**
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Make an actual dive in a Recompression chamber! Three lectures plus the chamber dive. Experience nitrogen narcosis and see the effects of pressure on everyday objects. Saturday from 9:00 am to approximately 4:00 pm.
Chicago Facility ***$75.00***

PADI Medic First Aid **Feb. 13**
PADI's all in one course for the serious diver. Includes first aid and CPR! Geared towards the SCUBA diver, this course should be taken by all! A must for Rescue divers! PADI Medic First Aid certification. Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm.
Chicago Facility ***$75.00***

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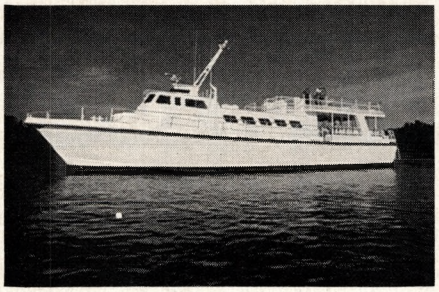
For information contact Adventure Express at 185 Berry Street, Suite 5503, San Francisco, CA 94107; (415) 442-0799 or (800) 443-0799.

FRINK WHALE SHARK EXPEDITION

Each spring weather conditions in the Southern Barrier Reef of Belize cause masses of marine life to proliferate. Fishermen have repeatedly sighted whale sharks in the vicinity over the past several seasons. May 28-June 4, *Belize Aggressor* will host a special whale shark expedition. Spotter planes and fishermen's reports will be used to pinpoint any



sightings. Tour escort for this unusual adventure will be photographer Stephen Frink. The special program includes the expenses of the spotter flights.

For further information contact See & Sea Travel, Inc., 50 Francisco Street, Suite 205, San Francisco, CA 94133; (415) 434-3400.

SHARK CAGE ADVENTURE

See & Sea Travel is again offering a full schedule of shark cage adventures. These feature two days of filming 12-20 blue sharks and, occasionally, mako sharks, from special cages. The escorts are Marty Snyderman and Bob Cranston. The boat, *Betsy M*, goes 25 miles out to clear water off San Diego; the shark action is right in front of your lens.

Departures are June 17-18, August 5-6, August 19-20, September 2-3, September 16-17 and October 14-15. For further information contact See & Sea Travel Service, Inc., 50 Francisco Street, Suite 205, San Francisco, CA 94133; (415) 434-3400.

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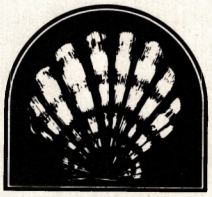

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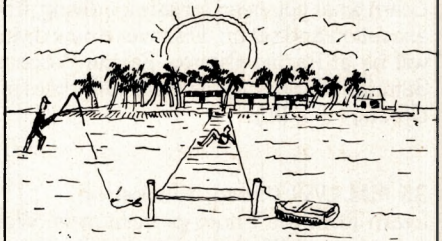

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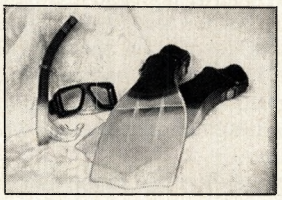

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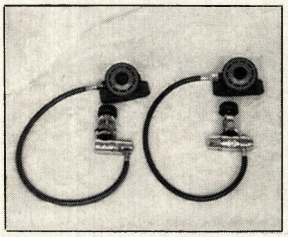

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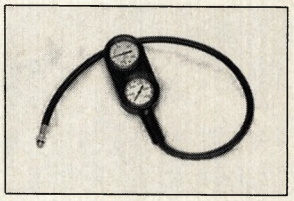

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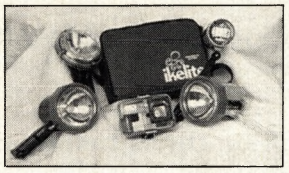

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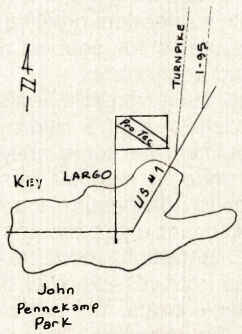

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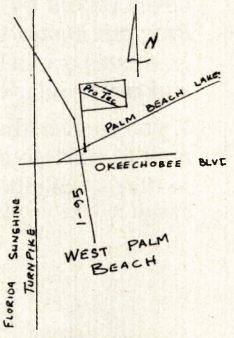

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TECHNIFACTS

(Continued from Page 41)

mental sounds and anomalous noises. As electronic systems improved, and as computers were developed for storing submarine noise "signatures," these crude beginnings became the heart of modern military submarine search, identification and attack systems.

OPENING THE WINDOW

When long umbilicals were developed that permitted sending power and electronic signals to and from submerged systems, it became possible to mount sonar transducers in a towfish—or fish—one on each side, pointing in opposite directions. The fish and transducers could then be towed at a depth that depended on the total depth of the water as well as other factors.

Transducers mounted in the fish transmit high frequency, high intensity sound pulses to either side of the towing vessel. In the horizontal plane the sound beams are narrow; in the vertical they are wide. The echoes of the high intensity sound waves that are reflected from any irregularities of the bottom are received by the transducer in the fish. They are then converted to electrical energy and sent via the umbilical to a special graphic recorder on board the towing vessel where an electronic image is recorded on a chart.

Modern sidescan sonars are greatly improved in their effectiveness and have evolved into sensitive, rugged instruments capable of imaging the sea bottom in great detail. More importantly to divers, objects resting on or buried beneath the bottom can be revealed. The window into the sea has been opened.

ABOUT SIDESCAN SONAR

One of the original researchers and developers of sidescan sonar was Martin Klein, now president of Klein Associates, Inc. Sidescan equipment manufactured by Klein Associates includes systems for mine hunting, determining the condition of channels with sub-bottom profiling and Microprofiler systems for seabed mapping and related accessories.

Some of the most versatile tools for divers are models of Klein's Hydroscan advanced equipment for sonar imaging. They are designed in modular form to permit the user to put together the optimum configuration for a specific application. They are lightweight, portable and have been used from vessels of all sizes, including inflatable boats. The basic system, as used by divers for shipwreck search and evaluation, is composed of four units: the power supply, the recording unit, the fish and the umbilical.

THE POWER SUPPLY

For use on board small boats, such as conventional outboards or inflatables,

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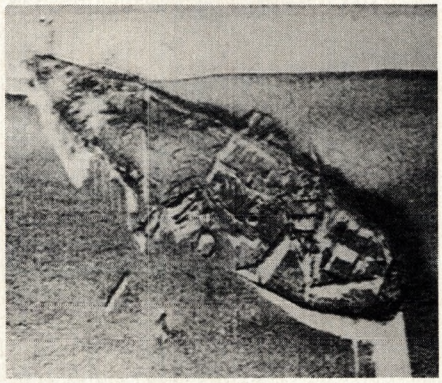
two 12 volt car batteries can be used as a source for 24 volt power. A built-in converter permits the use of 110 or 220 volt power when either of these voltages are available, such as on larger vessels.

THE RECORDING UNIT

Weighing about 100 pounds, the graphic recording unit is the heaviest part of the system. It contains the various operating controls such as gain and for tuning the electronics. The drive motor feeds a 19 inch wide recording paper and the printing mechanism to provide hard copy of bottom conditions.

THE TOWFISH

Towing the transducer unit instead of mounting it in the hull of a vessel offers several advantages. Of great importance to divers is that it keeps the entire system portable so it can be used from any vessel of opportunity. As a portable unit, the fish is decoupled from the sometimes wild motions of the towing vessel (that frequently resulted in fluctuations in depth and distance indications), thus providing a stable imaging point for the final record of the bottom. Also of great importance,



photos/courtesy Klein Associates

Sidescan sonar image of the Vineyard Sound Lightship, which sank in 1944 off Massachusetts in about 80 feet of water.

the fish can be towed near the bottom so that most of the energy of the sound waves is utilized in obtaining a high resolution image of the surrounding seafloor.

TOW CABLE ASSEMBLIES

Two types of tow cables are available in models for the different applications of the Klein Associates sidescan sonar systems. All have a center core of electrical wires to carry power and signals between the recorder and the towfish. The lightweight cables are for small boat operations at slow speed in shallow water. They are two channel umbilicals with a strength member of DuPont Kevlar and have a polyurethane jacket and a breaking strain of about 6,000 pounds. For deeper and faster towing operations, double armored, galvanized steel jacketed umbilicals are used. These are available in two or three channel systems with a breaking strain of either 6,000 or 16,000 pounds.

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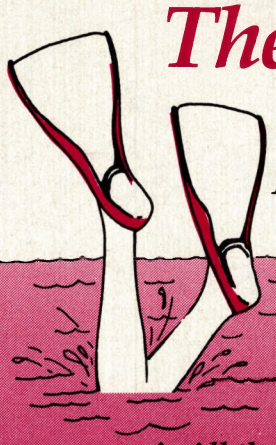

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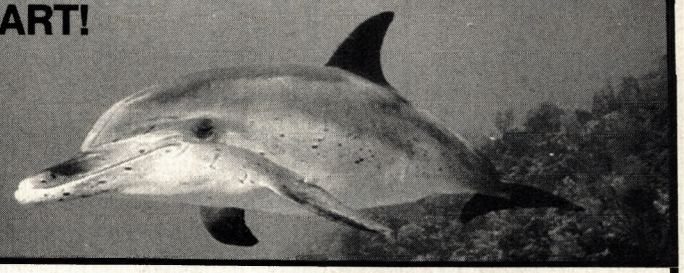

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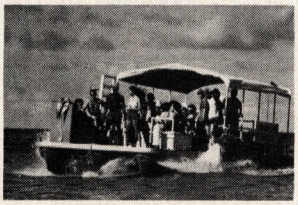

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TECHNIFACTS

heavy duty connecting shackles. In practice a secondary safety cable is used from the bail-grip of the main cable to one end of the fish. A "breakaway link" is installed in the tow cable. If the fish becomes fouled during towing, the breakaway link parts and the fish is recovered by one end with the safety wire.

SUB-BOTTOM PROFILER AND MICROPROFILER

The sub-bottom profiler is designed to provide a clean, high intensity pulse to obtain a very high *vertical* resolution of bottom conditions. Part of the energy transmitted is reflected from the top layer of the seafloor and part penetrates the

Sidescan sonar image of a sailing ship.

bottom and is reflected off sub-bottom layers and artifacts in those layers. According to Klein Associates, ocean bottom layers may typically be resolved to a depth of one-half meter.

The Microprofiler transmits an extremely narrow *horizontal* beam to obtain high resolution images of the seafloor topography on each side of the towfish.

The towfish for the Klein combined sidescan sonar, sub-bottom profiler and Microprofiler is slightly larger to accommodate the additional electronic systems.

ADVANTAGES OF SIDESCAN SONAR

When compared with other methods of investigating what lies at the bottom of a body of water, nothing compares with the results now obtained with sophisticated sidescan sonar. It is now a widely accepted tool for use in many marine fields. Transducers can be mounted in fish capable of operation at depths of 12,000 meters (the deepest ocean depth). Systems working on different frequencies are available for selected purposes.

For large shipwreck search, fish equipped with transducers operating at 50 kHz will effectively "scan" a swath of

ocean bottom one kilometer (0.621 mile) in width. For smaller targets, a higher resolution towfish transmitting at 100 kHz, with a swath width of 400 meters (436 yards) is used. For extremely high resolution imaging, the 500 kHz towfish is used to detail very small objects. The sub-bottom profiler could be used to investigate material buried in the bottom.

In operation the fish is towed behind the support boat at a prescribed height above the bottom as determined by depth, bottom contours and surface conditions. In the boat a crew tunes and monitors the image being recorded while keeping a careful watch for suspected targets. Closer examination of targets can be made by making additional passes with the sonar. A target can also be buoyed and, if at diving depth, investigated visually by divers.

The above operations can be performed at a boat speed of five to six knots while covering a swath nearly three-quarters of a mile in width. For comparison, a diver searching underwater can—at best—cover one mile an hour and, with the best visibility, scan a swath of 200 feet; usually much less. A diver cannot see beneath the silt. Sidescan sonar can.

IN CONCLUSION

Starting at about $34,000, sidescan sonar systems are admittedly expensive. In commercial diving, where extreme accuracy of information is necessary over a wide area, they become cost effective. The position of the *Titanic* was determined by sidescan sonar. The *Breadalbane*, sunk for 130 years; the Vanderbilt yacht *Alva*, sunk in 1891; and the *Edinburg*, with five tons of gold on board, were all located by sidescan sonar. In wreck diving, its use means obtaining information about potentially valuable material that no other system can provide.

I would like to thank Garry A. Kozak, regional sales manager of Klein Associates, for providing information and photographs for this Technifacts. Gary told me of two programs offered by Klein Associates that might be of interest to divers. It now has a manual entitled *Side Scan Sonar Record Interpretation*. Klein also offers formal operator training courses for the use of its equipment. Write to Klein Associates, Klein Drive, Salem, New Hampshire 03079 for information and prices; telephone (603) 893-6131.

A book entitled *Recent Developments in Side Scan Sonar Techniques* is also available from the publishers, W.G.A. Russell-Cargill, Central Acoustics Laboratory, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa. The price of this book is $16, to be submitted in an international bank draft.

Next month Technifacts will again answer questions received from readers. Be with us for some interesting aspects of sport and commercial diving. See you then.

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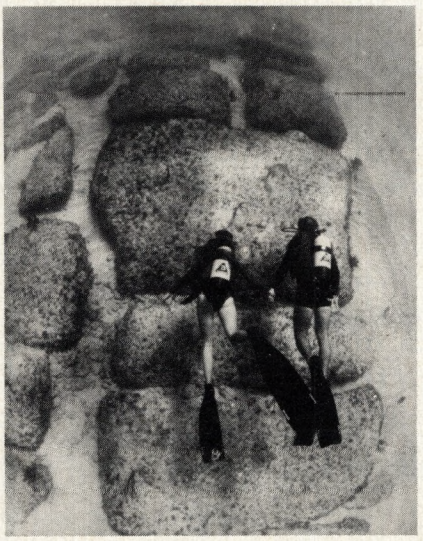

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Chocolate Abalone Dive A GOURMET DIVER'S DELIGHT

BY LAURIE OLIVER HUELGA

Chocolate is one of our national pastimes. Americans have defined the term "chocoholic" with their addiction to chocolate bars, truffles and fudge brownies. Today, even health nuts find it hard to resist chocolate covered strawberries, apples and grapes. Americans not only eat chocolate, but they read chocolate, in publications such as Chocolate News and Chocolatier Magazine.

A new gourmet confection has hit the chocoholic's list of favorites—the California chocolate abalone. The harvest of these delicacies takes place in late March, just in time for Easter. They are found only in Monterey Bay. To obtain

photo/Al Huelga

Divers flocked to Monterey's San Carlos Beach to search for chocolate abalone.

these unique creatures chocolate lovers must first become scuba divers. Then they can participate in the annual California Chocolate Abalone dive, held the last Saturday in March.

The six inch, ten ounce, solid-chocolate-with-almond abalones entice hundreds of chocolate lovers into Monterey Bay each year. But, can these chocolate sea creatures actually be harvested in the chilly seawater?

Al Huelga, owner of Aquarius Dive Shop in Monterey, admits it's not a natural phenomenon for chocolate to grow in the sea. However, with a little help, it thrives under rocks and in kelp beds.

Al created the California chocolate abalone five years ago and Aquarius Dive Shop sponsors the harvesting. Al has been in the chocolate business 20 years and has been diving for 12.

"In three years the chocolate abalone harvest has really become the ideal treasure hunt for California divers," Al ex-

plains. Each vacuum packed chocolate abalone is accompanied by a number, which corresponds to a prize ashore. "Divers are not only motivated to dive, but they have a prize waiting for them when they reach shore. What better motivation than chocolate?"

Manufacturers support this event, with donated prizes ranging from air cards to wetsuits to magazine subscriptions to dive trips to pizza. "The support we've obtained is tremendous. Donors understand the desire for and attractiveness of this event, and they go out of their way to help us promote safe sport diving."

The third annual California Chocolate Abalone Dive, held March 28, 1987, had almost 50 companies donating nearly 200 prizes. The 260 scuba chocolatiers searched for 175 abalones and found 169, including three from the 1986 Chocolate Abalone Dive! Needless to say, those three were not edible.

The chocolate abalones are placed in a one-quarter square mile area off San Carlos Beach, just south of Monterey's breakwater (Coast Guard Pier). Depths range from 10-30 feet and buoys mark the boundaries.

Participants pre-register by mail or in person, obtaining an entry form at almost any of the dive shops in Central and Northern California. Divers may also register on the day of the event at the Aquarius Dive Shop on Del Monte Avenue. Everyone must have a dive buddy or one will be assigned. All participants must check in at both Aquarius and at the beach that morning. Beach check-in is at San Carlos Park at the gear drop-off point. Participants get a red ticket that verifies their registration and qualifies them for the raffle that afternoon. Undiscovered prizes are raffled after the dive.

After official picture-taking, everyone suits up on the beach and prepares for entry. Around 11:00 am the starting gun fires and the mob of equipment-laden coldwater cavorters plunges into the chocolate-infested waters of Monterey Bay. The spectators seem as excited to see the diver's bubbles and flying fins as the divers are to find the chocolate.

Speaking of fins, the visibility this year was a spectacular 20 feet—until more than 500 fins began their duty. The weather was a spectacle in itself at more than 80°F.

You do not have to be a chocoholic to be a scuba chocolatier and participate in the Chocolate Abalone Dive. All you really need is a fun-loving spirit, a taste for excitement and a paid entry fee! Oh, and this year, March 26, a few rules will be changed: 1) A limit of four chocolate abs per diver will be enforced, and 2) A percentage of the entry fee will be donated to the Pacific Grove Recompression Chamber. California chocolate abalones are currently available—dry and on the shelf—at Aquarius Dive Shop: 2240 Del Monte Avenue, Monterey, CA 93940; (408) 375-1933.

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Huntington Beach-based Submersible Systems' Spare Air has saved the life of a U.S. Navy helicopter crewman who crashed during recent hostilities in the Persian Gulf. While the name of the survivor is being withheld pending further investigation of the crash, the navy indicated the crewman was pinned within his aircraft upon impact and would not have survived had not Spare Air provided him extra time to free himself.

"Spare Air was specifically designed to save lives," said Nathan Owen Rosenberg, chairman of the board for the scuba system manufacturer. "We already know it has saved the lives of a number of scuba divers. However, this is the first case

we've heard about in which Spare Air has saved the life of a serviceman. We're very pleased . . . the product continues to provide added safety and reassurance to its users."

With the recent contract between Submersible Systems, Inc. and the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, Spare Air, referred to in the military as HEED (Helicopter Emergency Egress Device) II, has become a standard addition to Navy and Marine Corps helicopter flight crews' gear.

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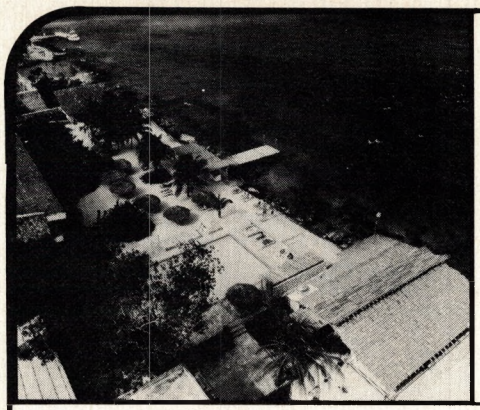

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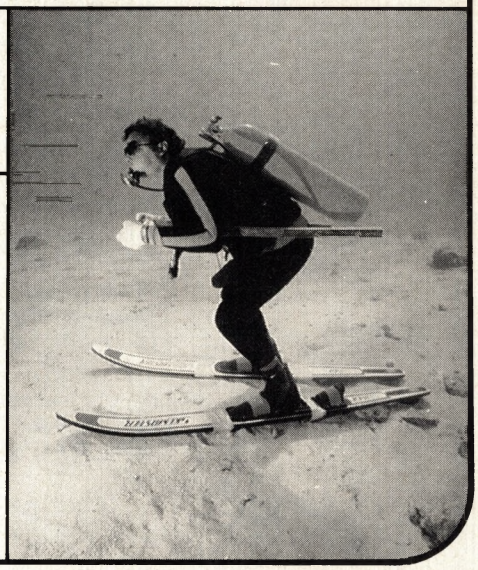

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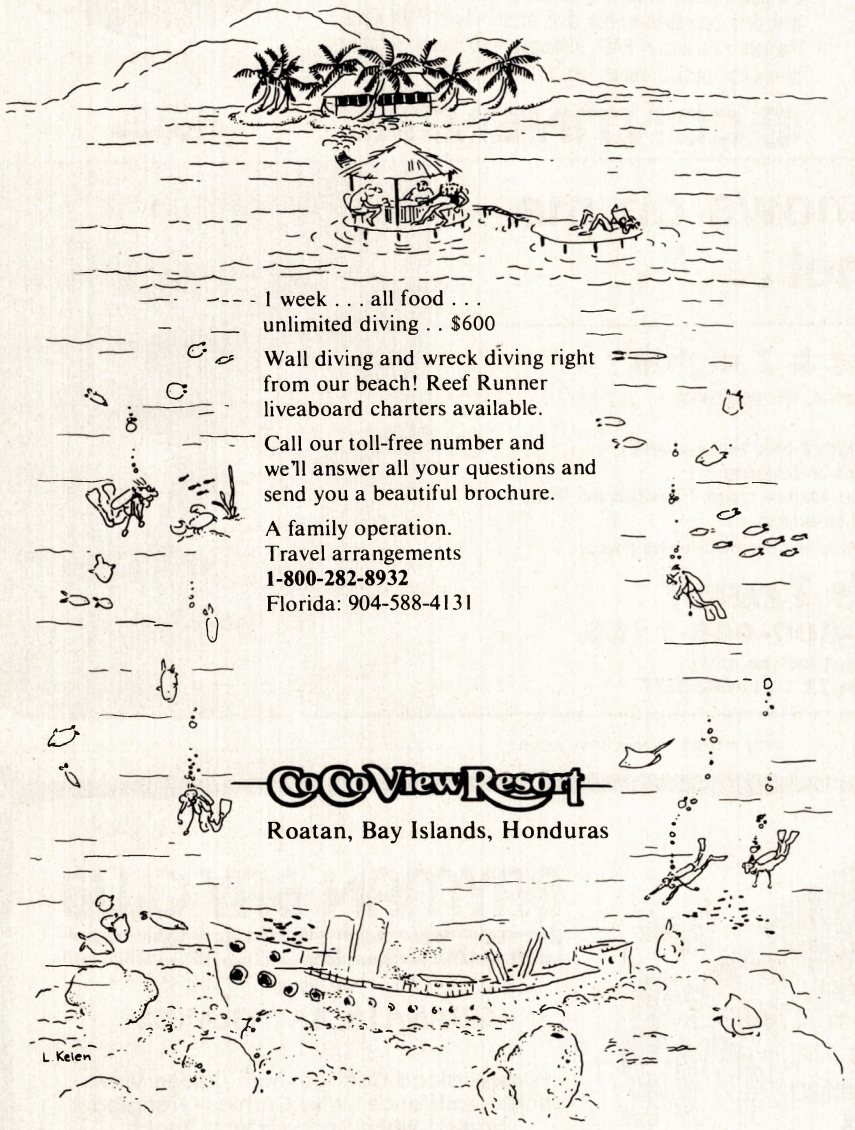

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BALMORHEA STATE PARK

DIVING OASIS ON THE TEXAS PLAINS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID K. FERRY

Imagine you're traveling down a deserted stretch of Interstate 10 between Van Horn and Fort Stockton, Texas. You're just about as near to the middle of nowhere as you'll ever get. El Paso is the closest city to the west—a mere 200 miles away—while San Antonio and Austin are almost twice that distance to the east! To break the boredom of interstate highway travel, you decide to take the exit for a place called Balmorhea State Recreation Area. An old travel guide hiding in your glove compartment had said the place should have picnicking facilities as well as the usual camping accommodations. Seems like the guide had also mentioned something about a swimming pool and maybe even a small tourist court. Sounds like a good place to rest your posterior after all that time behind the wheel.

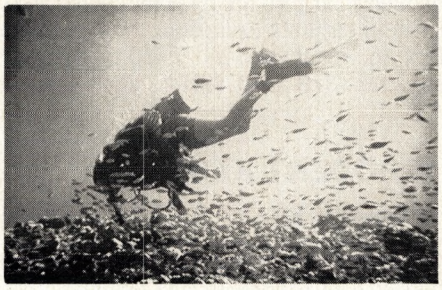
After a brief trip down an empty two lane highway, you arrive at the park entrance and, as you enter it, two things immediately draw your attention. First is the contrast between the beautiful green of the park grounds and the dull brown of the surrounding arid land. Second are all the trucks, vans and cars with dive flag decals parked near the concession building. Soon you learn the reason for both—San Solomon Springs!

Quickly, you park beside a dusty van sporting double dive flag decals and a Get High on a Reef bumper sticker. Immediately, you notice the couple in the van are actually suiting up for diving—but where in this west Texas desert could you possibly dive? Unable to control your curiousity any longer, you identify yourself as a fellow diver to the Texans in the van and begin to unravel the mystery.

You find out the Balmorhea State Recreation Area contains the world's largest spring-fed swimming pool! With a capacity of more than 3.5 million gallons, the pool covers almost two acres. Although it has concrete decking and sides, the bottom is natural, sloping to a depth of 30 feet. Your newfound dive buddies from the dusty van, Sue Ann and Billy Bob, have eagerly agreed to show you the wonders of San Solomon Springs. These erupt from the bottom of this Texas sized swimming pool after a long journey under the desert floor from the distant Davis Mountains. As Billy Bob and Sue Ann wait patiently for you to gear up (thank

goodness they had come prepared with plenty of extra equipment) they explain that Balmorhea State Recreation Area is a very popular dive site for landlocked local divers, dive clubs and instructors. The term "local" refers to anybody within 500 miles! With the nearest air station and dive store hours away, Balmorhea divers soon learn to come to the site prepared.

Finally, you're in the water and following your new dive buddies down the rocky slope to the bottom. As you descend, thousands of minnows surround you, apparently expecting a handout in exchange for giving you the right to swim in their domain. Suddenly, your concentration shifts from the mass of aquatic fauna that encircles you to an acute awareness of visibility. This water has the unrestricted visibility you thought only existed in those Florida springs you dived in last year on vacation. This can't be Texas—not west Texas. But it is, and it's not your imagination!



You've stumbled upon one of the most popular dive sites in the Southwest. Administered today by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the park and pool were constructed back in the '30s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Exceptional visibility, uniform water temperatures in the low 70s (°F), prolific freshwater critters and first rate camping and motel facilities within the 43 acre park make this oasis a standout dive destination.

The waters from San Solomon Springs make the park landscape green, provide irrigation for local agriculture and are also partially diverted into a shallow concrete canal that is home to two species of small desert fish that face extinction elsewhere on this planet. The Comanche Springs pupfish (*Cyprinodon elegans*) and the Pecos mosquitofish (*Gambusia nobilis*) now survive only through the efforts of conservationists who designed the special canal habitat necessary to duplicate the type of environment the little fish lost as the desert springs they lived in dried up. Let's hope these small fish are successful in their battle against extinction.

Even though Balmorhea is a little bit re-

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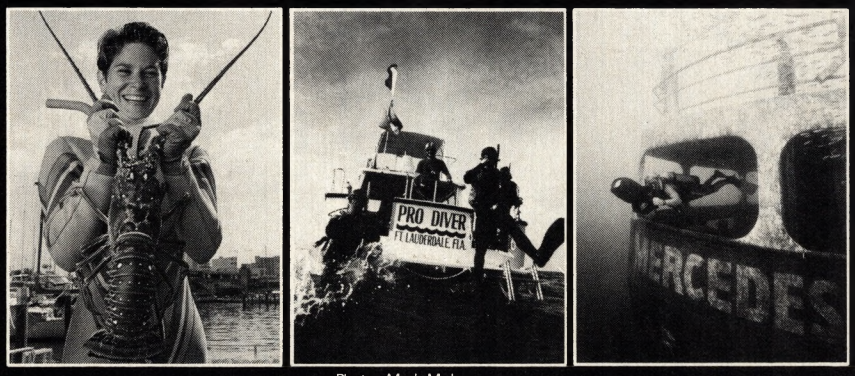

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mote, it is pretty close to a lot of other interesting places that are also a little remote. For instance, three national parks—Big Bend, Carlsbad Caverns and the Guadalupe Mountains—are all within a three hour drive. Fort Davis National Historic Site, Davis Mountains State Park and the McDonald Observatory are all in the Davis Mountains, which begin just a few miles south of the park. Some of the best lake diving in Texas can be found in Aimstad Reservoir on the Texas-Mexico border near Del Rio, Texas and only about a one-half day trip from Balmorhea.

So, next time you're traveling the wide open spaces of west Texas, don't forget to pack your dive gear or take along your favorite buddy. The diving's great and the scenery, spectacular. Divers are usually allowed to dive the pool anytime it is not open to the general public for supervised swimming activities. A small fee is charged and arrangements must be made at park headquarters before diving takes place. When checking in, the park staff will explain the special rules covering diving in the pool and C-cards will be checked. Reservations for the 18 unit San Solomon Springs Court or overnight camping facilities are available by writing Balmorhea State Recreation Area at P.O. Box 15, Toyahvale, TX 79786 or by calling (915) 375-2370.

T. ROBERT KENDALL

Oceanographer and ocean engineer Dr. T. Robert Kendall, 51, of La Verne, California died at his home October 24, 1987 after a four and one-half year battle with cancer.

A second generation Californian, Kendall was one of the pioneers in undersea technology, designing and constructing underwater equipment and camera housings. He was a charter member of the Underwater Photographic Society of America. His last research involved an explanation of the effect of tides on the major ocean currents in the western tropical Pacific.

Kendall was best known for his expertise in the field of underwater photography, especially in the field of black and white and macro photography. His pictures have appeared in numerous books, magazines and technical journals such as Life, National Geographic, SKIN DIVER, Neptune, Marine Technology Society Journal, Mondo Somerso, Ocean Industry, Sea Frontiers and the Underwater Photographer. He published *Photographs Underwater*, which includes many of his award winning pictures.

Memorial contributions in his name may be made to the Book Grant Fund in Computer Technology at the University of La Verne's Wilson Library.

SABLE ISLAND

TIGHT LITTLE ISLAND IS A STIFF CHALLENGE FOR DIVERS

photos/courtesy Nova Scotia Dept. of Government Services

BY HOWARD M. DUFFY

One hundred ten miles southeast of Cape Canso, Nova Scotia lies Sable Island, which seafaring men call "the most shipwrecked island in the world." A veritable graveyard of lost ships in North Atlantic waters, more than 10,000 lives and 700 known vessels have been wrecked on Sable Island's reefs throughout the past 300 years.

Even though a specter of death hovers over the bare bones of many visible wrecks, a few divers have braved the shoal filled waters surrounding this lonely isle. Unseen in calm weather, these shoals become boiling cauldrons when stormy seas break on them. Once a storm trapped ship is snared among them, she has no more chance for survival than an insect on flypaper. Old salts contend 20 miles is not too wide a berth to give this deathtrap.

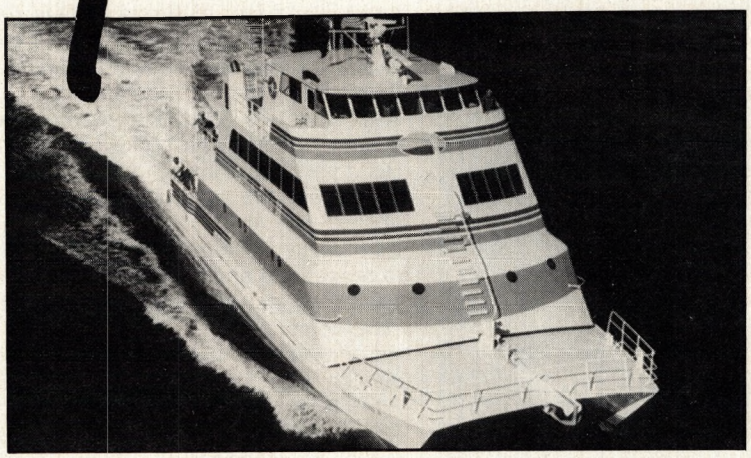
So, why would any sane diver wish to test Sable's waters? It's the old story—the lure of lost treasure.

According to Harry E. Rieseberg and A.A. Mikalow's book, *Fell's Guide to Sunken Treasure Ships of the World*, "The island is a treasure hunter's paradise—more than $3 million lie along its barren shores and offshore waters.... As one flies over the island, he can look down on many wrecked ships, masthead, partially submerged hulls...."

About 500 miles out in the Atlantic from Portland, Maine, Sable Island is 20 miles long, one mile wide and 85 feet high in places, with barely submerged sandbars lengthening the island another 22 miles. The irregular and often violent Atlantic currents around the island have caused drastic reshaping of Sable over the past few centuries, creating constantly shifting sand banks and the relocation of several lighthouses over the years. Here the icy northern waters meet the warm Gulf Stream to create dangerous swirling currents and thick fog. Sable is in the center of that whirlpool of currents.

(Continued on Page 156)

Bottom Time II



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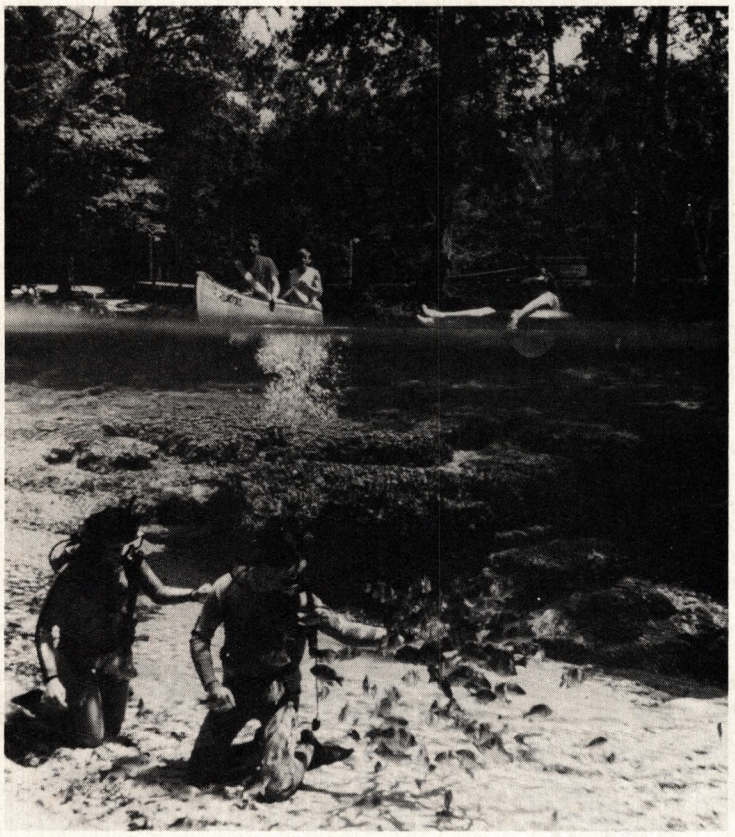

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Now, instructors and member businesses of Scuba Schools International can see the inner workings of their agency through a video tour. An Inside Look at SSI is a 20 minute videotape that explains why SSI has been the "natural choice" for more than 250 dive stores and thousands of instructors worldwide.

Produced for SSI's instructor training programs, this teaching tool focuses on the people, the programs and the instructional materials that have distinguished SSI from other agencies. Concept Systems, Inc. developed this program for SSI early in 1987. Copies have been distributed to training facilities worldwide. Purchasers of the tape are finding it to be invaluable in all aspects of leadership training and have found it suitable for sales staff orientation, too. Viewers especially appreciate the discussion about the Divelog system and using the unique SSI training folder.

In its ten year history, Concept Systems, Inc. has produced training programs for SSI, supporting many facets of the diving industry such as air compressor operation and maintenance, scuba tank inspection and cold water near-drowning. In recent years, the firm has diversified, producing training videos on ski tuning and retail selling techniques.

Available in one-half inch VHS and Beta, this videotape is available exclusively to SSI member businesses and instructors. You can order your copy of An Inside Look at SSI by calling (800) 821-4319. Or, write to SSI at 2619 Canton Court, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

ISLA MIA CHARTER

The M/V *Isla Mia*, Belize's longest running live-aboard, will again be making an extended charter, April 16-28, to dive the length of the second longest barrier reef in the world. The trip will start with a chartered inland tour of Belize's Maya ruins and rustic mountain territory. Then it's out to sea for the next ten days, starting on the northern end of the reef at Lighthouse Reef. Then it's on to Glover's Reef and ending the trip by diving in Roatan in the Honduran Bay Islands.

The *Isla Mia* is a 75 foot long live-aboard with all of the amenities today's diver wants. It features on board E-6 photo processing and a video lab. There are seven air-conditioned and carpeted staterooms.

For more information on this Belize excursion contact either: *Isla Mia* Ltd., Rt. 3, P.O. Box 214A, Corpus Christi, TX 78415; (800) 255-8503—or See & Sea Travel, 50 Francisco St., Suite 205, San Francisco, CA 94133; (800) DIV-XPRT.

QUINTANA/BEUCHAT

Robert Quintana, formerly with Cressi-sub, has joined Beuchat in Ft. Lauderdale. As Beuchat's new national sales manager, he will be heavily involved in sales, recruitment, product design and packaging, advertising and trade shows.

Beuchat USA is an affiliate of Beuchat S.A., a leading French manufacturer of professional grade diving equipment. The company, headquartered in Marseille, was founded more than 40 years ago by pioneer diver George Beuchat.

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COAST GUARD REQUIREMENTS

In a sweeping change to the licensing system, the Coast Guard now requires anyone seeking a license to first be certified for first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). In addition, anyone renewing a license must have a current CPR certification. Certification can be from the American National Red Cross, the American Heart Association or other organizations approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

In response, Sea School of St. Petersburg, Florida has obtained approval to use its professional instructors to certify applicants for first aid and CPR. The instructors, already qualified through other approved sources, are being further trained and certified by the Maritime Medical Services Division of Emergency Physicians of Florida, Inc.

Captain Bob Arnold, director of Sea School, said, "We call our first aid and CPR certification program POLAS, for Protection of Life at Sea.

In a related matter, the Coast Guard has apparently heeded the complaints they received about their earlier plan to eliminate entry level licenses for captains of inspected vessels. They have not only retained entry level licenses, but have upgraded them, as well as expanding the "six pack" license. The following is a breakdown, prepared by Sea School:

Licenses issued on December 1, 1987 and after are designated either master inland or master near coastal, depending upon the holders' qualifications. They are valid for vessels as large as 100 tons. The near coastal version may be used as far as 200 miles offshore.

Inland and ocean operator licenses, issued for inspected vessels before December 1, 1987 remain valid until their normal expiration dates. A skipper who renews will then convert to one of the new master's licenses.

The six pack license has been expanded for qualified skippers to include a coastal endorsement of 100 miles offshore with no further route restrictions. The Coast Guard's term for a six pack license is "operator of uninspected passenger vessels," or OUPV. A skipper must have an OUPV license or higher in order to transport up to six passengers for hire on an uninspected vessel.

The Coast Guard has emphasized that, for licenses issued before December 1, neither an inland/ocean operator nor a six pack operator can get the appropriate upgraded license until his or her present license is due for renewal. However, a headquarters spokesman said that, if an operator can demonstrate a real need for the limits authorized by the new licenses, he/she might obtain such limits as an endorsement on his existing license.

Similarly, a license that gets "lost" will be replaced with a duplicate, rather than with an upgraded license.

For further information on the first aid/CPR courses or the license upgrades, contact the nearest Coast Guard Regional Examination Center or call Sea School at (800) 237-8663.

BRYLSKE/PRO DIVE

As part of a major expansion to its Scuba Career Division for 1988, Professional Diving Schools of Florida has added Alex Brylske as a consultant and adjunct instructor. In his new capacity, Brylske will be responsible for redesigning the career development curriculum for Pro Dive, as well as teaching all PADI divemaster and instructor development courses.

Prior to establishing his own educational consulting firm, Brylske served on the PADI International Headquarters staff in various roles. He is the principal designer of all of PADI's professional level training courses and seminars, including the divemaster, IDC/IE and instructor crossover programs. He also served as curriculum consultant, PADI International College and functioned as an instructor examiner in the southeastern region.

As one of the most accomplished writers in diving, he is the author or coauthor of most of PADI's instructional texts and a primary contributor to PADI's new *Encyclopedia of Diving*. Alex holds a master of arts degree in instructional technology and design.

Pro Dive will soon be doubling the size of its facilities at Ft. Lauderdale's Bahia Mar Yachting Complex and has purchased a new 55 foot custom dive boat. Pro Dive's location on the beach puts students within walking distance of all facilities and dive boats. For more information call (800) 772-3483.

NAVY REGULATOR TESTS

According to the U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit, the Poseidon Cyklon 5000, Odin and Thor regulators all exceed the new U.S. Navy standards for diving to 198 feet of seawater. They were tested along with 48 other commercially available scuba regulators. Only six exceeded the new standard.

The United States Navy tests revealed that only four sport diving regulators—three of which were the Poseidon units—provided superior performance under cold water conditions.

For more information on these regulators, or for excerpts from the U.S. Navy's report, contact Viking America, Inc., the U.S. distributor for Poseidon Systems. Viking may be contacted at 30700 Solon Industrial Parkway, Solon, Ohio 44139; (216) 349-1319.

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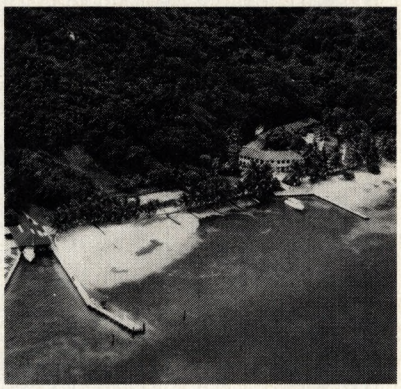

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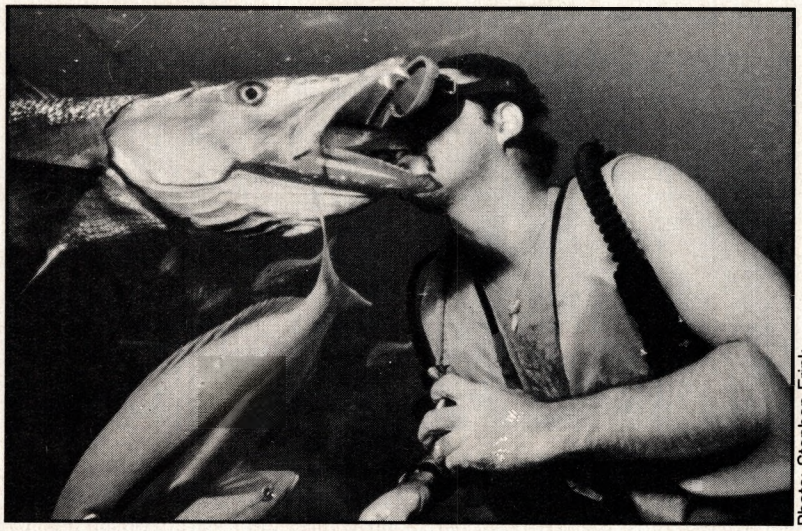

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ABALONE PLANT

Recently, six divers from the Greater Los Angeles Council of Divers (GLACD) planted 4,000 juvenile abalone off the coast of Palos Verdes (Southern California). These abalone were donated by the Southern California Edison Company. GLACD hopes to restore coastal areas that have been overfished and closed to shellfish harvesting and to enhance protected underwater recreational parks by restocking abalone.

Edison conducts many research programs in order to determine what impact its coastal generating stations might have on the coastal marine environment. Part of the research entails the cultivation of abalone larvae and juveniles in a hatchery. Some of these are used for studies of coastal resource enhancement.

Edison donated 3,000 pink and 1,000 green abs, averaging one inch in length, to GLACD. The utility also provided specially designed planting modules to protect the abalones from predators while they recover from the shock of transplantation. The abalone will leave these modules to seek new, permanent homes. It will take five to seven years for them to grow to adult size.

GLACD will determine the effectiveness of the transporting and transplanting techniques developed by Edison researchers. The divers will return to the planting sites over the next two weeks to determine the initial mortality rates of the abalone and the speed at which they leave the planting modules in search of new homes. They will submit a written report to Edison. Additionally, GLACD intends to determine the survival rate of the abalones over the next few years.

USS SAN DIEGO TRIP

The Research Vessel *Wahoo*, captained by Steve Bielenda, recently ran a special expedition to the wreck of the USS *San Diego*. All aboard participated in a dive to photograph, videotape and recover artifacts from a newly discovered storage room in the bow of this WW I cruiser, now resting upside down in 110 feet of water.

The *San Diego* was originally commissioned the *California* in 1907. She was 503 feet long 69 feet wide and had a displacement of 13,680 tons. The warships' complement of artillery consisted of three, six and eight inch cannons. On July 19, 1918 an explosion tore a huge hole in her port side. The *San Diego* sank within 28 minutes in an area known as Wreck Valley.

Many artifacts recovered from the *San Diego* are displayed in museums, decorate area dive shops or are used in slide shows, TV shows and magazine articles—aimed at increasing the public's interest in diving and shipwrecks.

For further information on Long Island's shipwrecks please refer to *Wreck Valley: A record of Shipwrecks off Long Island's South Shore*. Copies of this book and a plastic laminated Loran C coordinate list are available from Aqua Explorers, Inc., 22 Maiden Lane, Lynbrook, New York 11563.

To dive the *San Diego* wreck, contact R/V *Wahoo*, P.O. Box 888, Miller Place, NY 11764.

BRIDGES RECEIVES NAUI AWARD

Lloyd Bridges, star of the original Sea Hunt television series, was recently awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the National Association of Under-

water Instructors (NAUI). This was the first honorary lifetime membership ever awarded by NAUI. It was presented to Bridges for his service to the NAUI Diving Association as chairman of the Freedom Dive project and for generating great interest in diving with the Sea Hunt series.

The award was presented to Bridges by Nancy Guarascio, NAUI president, and Johnny G. Wyatt, NDA national project manager. Upon receiving the award, Bridges responded, "I am honored to receive this award. NAUI has done a great deal for diving safety over the years and I have always held the association in high regard. I am especially impressed with the work NAUI and NDA have done to support the Divers Alert Network and the Handicapped Scuba Association."

ORCA PEOPLE

Orca Industries, Inc. has added Richard R. Nordstrom and Paul Heinmiller to its management team. Nordstrom has been appointed president and chief executive officer. He is formerly of Arbonite Corporation and Scuba Parts and has many years of production and management experience.

Heinmiller has been appointed director of engineering and comes to Orca from the University of Rhode Island, Department of Ocean Engineering. Former president of Orca Industries, James Fulton, has become chairman of the board and retained an active position as director of marketing. Orca was founded in 1982 by James Fulton and Craig Barshinger.

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SABLE ISLAND

(Continued from Page 149)

A famous symbol of the island is its wild pony herd, which braves the fierce weather, unprotected by trees or windbreaks. This herd feeds off the wild grasses and is often dropped hay from aircraft during the winter. The typical island pony is distinguishable by its chunky stature, sturdy legs, shaggy mane and long tail that sweeps the sands. A mixture of chestnuts, bays and browns, they roam the island in small bands, grazing on sandwort, beach pea and marram grass. This lush grass is the anchor of Sable Island. Without it the sand would blow away and the island would vanish.

Seals also share the beaches with the wild ponies and sea birds. From a distance, seals on the beaches often look like rounded rocks. Some 400 harbor seal pups are born on Sable each year from May to June, mostly on the south side, away from the island's other species, the gray seal.

This island had been designated as a lifesaving station since 1801, but it was not until 1873 that it obtained its first lighthouse. In his book, *Farquhar's Luck*, James A. Farquhar wrote: "The government job of a Sable Island lifeguard was no sinecure. The men got $12 a month and found their own bedding and wearing apparel. They were, however, given free houses and free food. They had rations of beef and pork and biscuit brought twice a year by the revenue cutter . . . . Wrecks brought the only news of the outside world, and the men usually received $2 or $3 in addition to their monthly wages when they worked at salvaging goods from a wrecked ship."

Today, the lifeguards are no longer at their stations and their houses have crumbled. Even the lighthouse keepers are gone, replaced by automatic beacons. Now the island's only residents are scientists, meteorologists and oil and gas seekers. Without a harbor, the island is inaccessible to the tourist. Strict environmental controls are in force and even landing on the beaches is discouraged.

The search for oil and gas on Sable and in the surrounding sea has been pursued since 1967. Out there, punching holes in the seafloor, are such giants as Mobil, Shell and Petro-Canada. Canadians wonder about the environmental impact of these operations.

Now, let's get back to the subject of treasure lost on Sable's reefs and beaches. Listing the gamut of treasure bearing ships from A to Z, we could start with the *Ann*, wrecked in 1835, and proceed to the *Zephyr*, which met its doom in 1873. However, within the alphabet are too many such wrecks to be treated in this short article. Many of these vessels carried various amounts of unrecovered treasure as well as other valuable cargo. Working conditions are atrocious and shifting sands have tended to cover most wrecks shortly after their sinking.

However, it is interesting to recall that *HMS Barbadoes*, mounting 28 guns, was wrecked on Sable's reefs on September 28, 1812. Captain Thomas Huskisson had in his charge $500,000 in gold and silver specie and bullion.

Ten years later the French ship *L'Americaine*, while transporting more than $1 million in gold and silver bullion and specie, was lost in 72 feet of water off the island's Wallace Lake. Then there was the *Arcadia*, cracking up in 1854 with a valuable cargo of bar copper.

Curiously, in 1777, the British ship *Aurora* smashed to bits on the treacherous reefs. When survivors reached shore, they found seven Negro women who had been wrecked there 16 years earlier on a French ship.

Yes, Sable Island offers a stiff challenge to the most experienced treasure diver. Assuredly, it is not a pleasure jaunt for the weekend enthusiast. A word of caution: Permission to visit the island must be obtained from the Canadian Ministry of Transport, which administers affairs of the island. One should contact: District Manager, Administrator Sable Island, Coast Guard Base, Canadian Ministry of Transport, Post Office Box 1000, B2Y 3Z8.

Happy hunting!

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SEAWATCH

SPORT DIVERS GRAPPLE WITH GROUPER SURVEY

BY HEYWARD MATHEWS, JIM MILLER AND DENNIS KELLENBERGER

You don't have to question the average diver very long to find a potential marine biologist. Many sport divers have dreams of someday becoming a marine scientist or oceanographer. Those who take the trouble to inquire about such a career find not only that many years of college and graduate school are required, but a very limited job market exists once they are completed. This does not mean, however, the average diver cannot make an important contribution to our knowledge of the sea and its inhabitants. Several programs are underway in Florida that utilize volunteer divers to assist oceanographers in collecting valuable data from coastal waters.

The Seawatch program began in 1981 at the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) in St. Petersburg. Initial support, which continued through 1985, was from the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation of New York. This important seed money allowed the development of a cadre of more than 100 recreational divers on Florida's west coast who have an interest in putting their diving skills to work collecting information on the aquatic environment. Several programs have been undertaken with this funding: a juvenile snapper and grouper survey, a year-long study of starfish in Tampa Bay and, most recently, a survey program for offshore artificial reefs in Pinellas County.

After the initial grant from the Dreyfus Foundation, Florida Sea Grant awarded a grant to Dr. Miller at the Florida Institute of Oceanography to develop a curriculum for training recreational divers in the collection of scientific data and to teach a pilot course and evaluate it. In the spring of 1982 a 48 hour course was given to 16 recreational divers, including 24 hours of classroom study and 24 hours in the water. The 16 were selected from more than 80 applicants. The course included instruction by local experts in scientific methods, data collection, geology, chemistry, biology, underwater photography and fish identification. The course was highly successful and the graduates since have served on Seawatch projects.

A similar program was conducted by Joe Halusky, Florida Sea Grant Marine Extension agent for Northwest Florida. Halusky organized a six weekend course that has been taught twice with a total of 23 divers trained from the Daytona Beach and Jacksonville areas. The Jacksonville divers have organized themselves into the Jacksonville Reef Research Divers,

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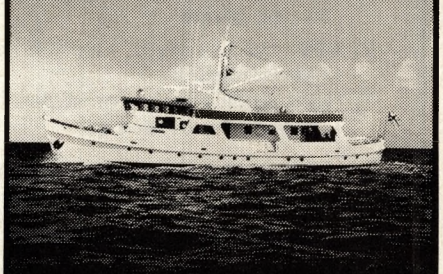

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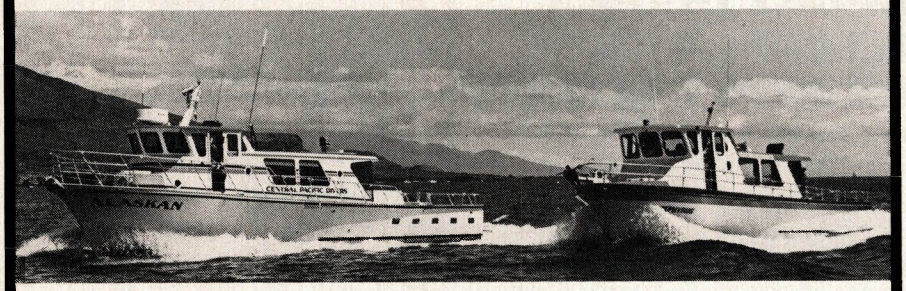

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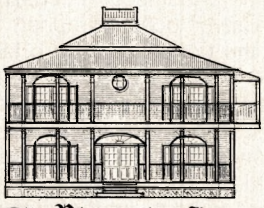

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SEAWATCH

Inc. and are working with the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club under a $1,000 grant from the Florida Department of Natural Resources to do an underwater mapping project of the artificial reef research divers' handbook under Florida Sea Grant funding.

The Pinellas County Artificial Reef Program is one of the largest continuous artificial reef programs in North America, in operation for 11 years with an annual budget in excess of $150,000 for a total expenditure of just under $2,400,000 since 1974. The Pinellas County Artificial Reef Program has 11 reef sites covering more than 100 acres of ocean bottom in depths from 27 to 120 feet. To undertake a survey and mapping project of this extensive reef system with county personnel would require a serious interruption of the reef building operation. Such a survey was badly needed to assure new reef materials would be placed to provide maximum fish habitats.

Local divers were used for this survey, even those who had not completed the previous training courses taught by the Seawatch program—the only requirement being basic certification and having their own boats and dive gear.

The divers picked up survey reels and clipboards with a data sheet at the Clearwater Marine Science Center, a waterfront facility easily accessible to them. Then the diver teams went to any of the 11 existing artificial reefs and selected one of the existing buoys as a starting point. A snap clip at the start of the 300 foot survey reel was attached to the buoy anchor as a known starting point. The divers, in teams of two, swam for 300 feet on a preselected compass bearing (a compass was attached to the clipboard). Each time reef materials were passed, the diver with the clipboard recorded the type of material, height off the bottom and dominant fish species present. These reels had lead markers with numbers imprinted at 10 foot intervals and the data sheet had standard abbreviations for the types of reef materials and fish species.

If legal size groupers or snappers were encountered during a survey, there was no objection to spearing them or collecting any shells that were encountered along the dive. The objective was to map the reef materials—the fish populations would vary with fishing and diving pressure anyway.

At the end of the survey, the team rewound the spool on the return trip to the starting point. The divers then made other surveys on different headings or returned to the boat and dived elsewhere.

Upon returning to shore, the teams refilled their tanks, refueled the boat and took the receipts to the Clearwater Marine Science Center where they returned the reel and clipboard. They were given

a check for the fuel and air expenses right there. This instant reimbursement was a vital part of the project.

In later phases of the project, divers were requested to survey certain reefs and specified compass headings to fill in gaps from the earlier work. The final phase of the project involved plotting the data collected to produce a map showing the reef material distribution of each reef for the entire Pinellas County artificial reef system. This plotting was done by Dr. Mathews and Pinellas County Artificial Reef Program personnel.

When finally complete, these maps will be published for local anglers and divers, showing the locations of the best concentrations of reef materials. These maps will also be used by the reef building crew to fill in the gaps and prevent overcrowding of other areas.

The response from sport divers throughout the Tampa Bay area was excellent, with more than 100 divers participating as well as several clubs. This work was completed at only a fraction of the cost of doing the work with county personnel or contracting out the work. The divers who participated in the project enjoyed the surveys and the cost of a day's diving was covered in the process.

Plans are now underway to expand the program southward along the gulf coast. The Dreyfus Foundation and Sea Grant funding have run out, but hopefully, other funding sources can be located to continue the work.

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ABOARD ALCYONE

BY HILLARY HAUSER

Veteran sailor and world explorer Jean-Michel Cousteau stood amid the fancy gear that runs the unique windship *Alcyone* and talked computers. "The interesting part is the computer that works on the engines and sails," he said, as crowds thronged the Santa Barbara docks after the arrival of the distinctive vessel. "I tell the computer I want to be in San Pedro at 9:30, traveling at ten knots. After that, I could drive to Los Angeles and meet the boat."

photo/Rafael Maldonado

The windship *Alcyone* ties up to the dock in Santa Barbara. (Note the tall cylinders.)

In October of 1986, *Alcyone* was exploring the offshore islands of Southern California—the Northern Channel Islands of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands, and the southern Channel Islands of Catalina, San Nicolas and San Clemente. The ship had stopped in Santa Barbara before embarking to the northern five.

The California islands were the last leg of the travels of *Alcyone* to the islands of the Pacific coast from Vancouver to Mexico. The film of *Alcyone*'s adventures is part of the Cousteau television series, Rediscovery of the World.

The captain of the *Alcyone*, Philippe Rueff, had programmed the ship's navigational computer so it would arrive in Santa Barbara exactly at 10:00 am. And, *Alcyone* was right on time—waiting five minutes before entering the harbor while the Navy Pier was cleared of equipment.

Soon after the flag draped ship tied to the pier, crowds of curious onlookers thronged the harbor for a close look at the windship with two stacks. Little boats circled *Alcyone* on the way in and they continued to cruise by the ship where it was tied up—all day long and far into the night. On the pier, someone said the ship looked like Two Mile Island, with its tall

cylindrical stacks. Somebody else wanted an autograph from "Jean-Mike."

A Cousteau Society truck parked on the pier, where the curious picked up literature about the society and the ship. Nearby, working fishermen unloaded their catches and complained to Cousteau about sea otters being translocated to San Nicolas Island.

On board, Cousteau talked about the wares of *Alcyone*. He pointed out the small boat launching ramp at the stern of the ship, where divers in a Zodiac inflatable boat can power up onto the ramp while *Alcyone* is underway. Inside the cabin, two parallel hallways are arteries through a row of staterooms, computer room, dive equipment room and heads.

The computer room provides for the operation of the ship. There is color radar, depth finders, sonar and Loran.

The turbosail system that powers *Alcyone* is to illustrate a "way to save energy," Cousteau said. "It's not to replace the sail or engine." The wind propulsion stacks of the propeller driven ship save 30 to 40 percent in energy costs, he explained. "That means money," Cousteau said. "If you tell people we're ecology minded, they will walk away. But, if you tell them that a 30 percent savings in fuel consumption means money, they listen. Ecology and environment is the same as economics. 'Ecos' means to 'manage your house.' We're talking about managing the planet."

Across the hall from the computer room is the dive equipment room. Cousteau pulled out a flat, silver-gray backpack, which holds long, thin scuba tanks. Each tank holds 5,000 psi of air, twice the amount found in a tank more than twice its size. Cousteau's divers wear silver and black wetsuits and a space-age silver helmet with a light over the forehead. The helmets contain communication devices that allow divers to talk to those aboard the ship.

At the stern of *Alcyone* is a large shark cage. The cage, Cousteau said, was used by the film crew in the Farallon Islands, off San Francisco. The Farallons, infamous for their resident populations of great white sharks, had not produced a single shark for the cameramen. "It cost us a lot in chum," Cousteau said.

But, certainties and guarantees are not what Cousteau seeks in making a documentary. He said he prefers that the subjects of the filming he does be a surprise to him. "I don't want to see the same things. I'm into surprises."

He commented on what he had seen in the islands off California. "At first I thought these islands were barren, but as soon as you start looking U/W, you see the uniqueness of the flora and fauna."

He called the islands "treasure islands" because they are protected by their distance from the mainland. He said the public needs to be educated to their delicate ecological balance. "The Channel Islands are unique." Cousteau said.

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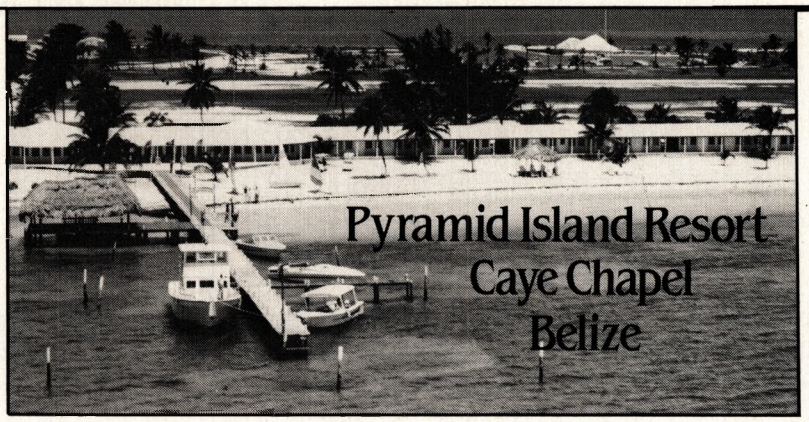

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ALCYONE

"If we are successful in managing the resources of these islands, we can apply this to the planet. The islands are a good test case."

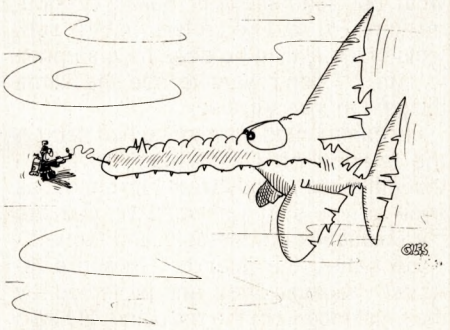
Unity of mankind is one of the themes of the new Cousteau Ocean Center in Paris. The center will be like a space and underwater Disneyland, Cousteau explained. It is one of his pet projects. Before taking over administrative duties for the society ("I still do too much of that, I'd rather be out exploring"), Cousteau worked primarily as a marine architect.

The Cousteau Ocean Center will be a compilation of his ideas—architectural, philosophical and biological. He envisions a moving walkway that would take visitors from inside a teardrop—where a mime act would point out the fact that humans are 75 percent water—to outer space, where the planet Earth is seen as a water planet. In another exhibit, people would be able to move inside a whale, traveling first into the mouth, over the tongue and then into the heart, blubber and body of the animal.

The ideas continue, and Cousteau said although his father had been asked if Rediscovery of the World was his last major film effort, the question was "completely stupid." The films, like the ideas, flow nonstop in minds that never cease to search.

BOOKSPAN RECEIVES AWARD

Jolie Bookspan, graduate of NAUI Accredited College, was recently awarded the prestigious Master's Award at Temple University in Philadelphia. This is granted to one outstanding educator each year who holds a master's degree and has been distinguished scholastically and professionally. Bookspan completed her master's degree in exercise physiology, specializing in aquatics, with a 4.0 grade point average, and is now a doctoral fellow. She says she is inspired by her grandmother who graduated from college in 1982 at the age of 81.



"Game diving tip #1: Never shoot anything bigger than your boat."

FLORIDA DIVE/TRAVEL SHOW

Florida's International Dive and Travel Show '88 will be held in Orlando September 30-October 2. It will combine VIP trade days for the industry as well as show days for the public. The show will offer an opportunity to view the latest equipment, dive destinations and related industries all under one roof.

Orlando offers much in the way of convenience, travel, accommodations and entertainment. Reservations for booths and additional information can be obtained by contacting International Dive and Travel Show, Inc., 1605 N. Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West, Florida 33040; (305) 296-0540.

PRO DIVE

Scorpio Enterprises is now the source of a new line of diving gear that will bear the name Pro Dive. Pro Dive, a full line of high quality, competitively priced products for sport diving, made its debut at the recent DEMA Show. It is seeking distributors worldwide.

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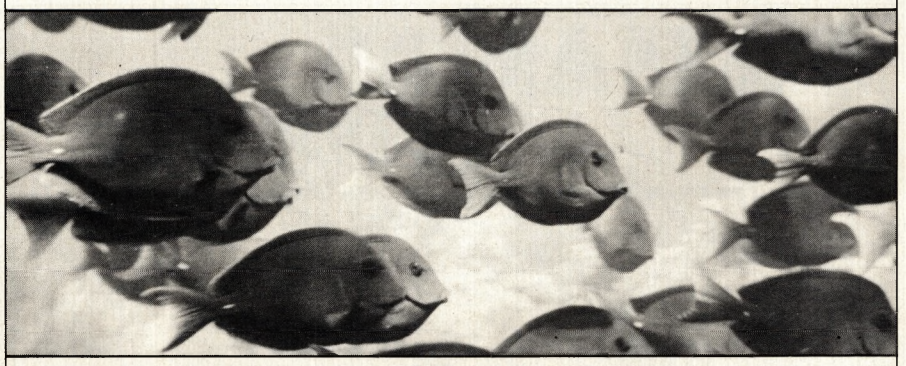

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ABALONE DIVERS GET MY GOAT

BY DICK ANDERSON

In 1542, when Juan Cabrillo sailed up the California coast, according to local folklore he left a few domestic goats on some of the Channel Islands. This may have been accidental or it may have been breeding stock for the benefit of later explorations. At any rate, the goats flourished. Unfortunately, translocated animals (including man, as this tale illustrates) often play the roll of biological weeds, surviving at the expense of the native flora and fauna. On San Clemente the U.S. Navy has been waging war with the goats for 50 years or so. The goats may be winning.

On Catalina the problem is handled with less fanfare. In fact, no fanfare at all, as far as I know. There have always been a lot of goats on Catalina, but they're not overrunning the streets of Avalon.

One of the first diving adventure tales that ever inspired me was about a couple of footloose guys who cruised around Catalina, dived all the time, and ate a lot of abalone and lobster. But that isn't all. When these guys craved red meat they'd look for a tender, young kid on a steep cliff over the water. One well aimed shot would cause the kid to fall right into the ocean and the pair would simply cruise over and pull it aboard. That night the kid would serve the purpose its ancestors escaped. It was roasted over a fire and devoured by ravenous seafarers.

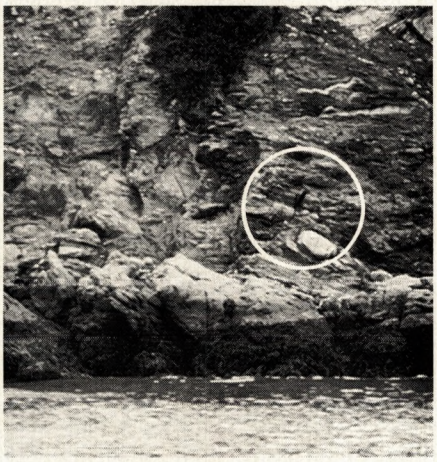
I guess this kind of stuff would appeal to a lot of youngsters and I don't feel too guilty about admitting it inspired me some. In those days it sounded a lot better than going to school or getting a job. I never did go out of my way to kill things so it took me a long time to get around to trying a goat dinner.

In the late '50s I hung around occasionally with a couple of actors who liked to dive and cruise around Catalina. One was Dick Norris. Among other things, he is immortalized in that epic, *Beast from 20,000 Fathoms*. He's the picturesque crewman who says, "Gulp!" when the awesome beast swallows him and the aging scientist—diving bell and all. It's the classic understatement of filmdom. The other actor was Britt Lomond. You will remember him as the unlikable Spanish comandante in the Zorro series.

No one ever seemed to have any money on these trips. I never had any money

to speak of. I'd heard a lot about it but didn't have much actual contact with it. Norris and Lomond never had any money either—that they would admit to anyway. I always had the feeling that each of them got more in unemployment compensation than my annual salary. It didn't seem quite fair because it was my boat we were cruising around on. (And, as a side note: If you've ever owned a boat you know that people who go out on other folks' boats like to feel the gas tank is filled by osmosis.)

Anyway, one long weekend we three cruised over to Avalon. Always short of money, we were going to live off the fat of the land. After a lot of lobster and abalone (an instance of overlapping seasons, I better add), we decided it was time for some red meat procured in the classic cliff-shot manner. But, by the time we actually got around to doing it, Norris and Lomond had developed other interests. The worldly demeanor of those two glib actors was just too much for the Avalon beach girls to resist and the guys couldn't bear to pull themselves away. "You go get the goat, Anderson, we'll interview some cooks," they said.



photo/Bonnie J. Cardone

Goats are often seen along the steep cliffs of Southern California's Catalina Island.

I was more hungry than lonely anyway. A roasting kid seemed pretty appealing right then. I rowed out to my boat and cruised down to the East End. Here, steep cliffs rise above the water and a narrow rocky beach. I spotted three goats on the face of the cliff; one tender looking kid, one chewy looking nanny and a grizzly old ram. I drew a bead on the kid and squeezed off a shot. Missed!

The kid scampered up and over the crest of the cliff before I could even recock. The nanny wasn't waiting around either. I got off one more shot before she jumped out of sight. A clean miss. Dinner was disappearing fast. The two shots finally got the attention of the big ram. He turned his head slowly and looked at me. Then he began plodding carefully up the cliff. His ancestors had once escaped from Juan Cabrillo and he wasn't too worried about me.

Now, I had always heard that kids were

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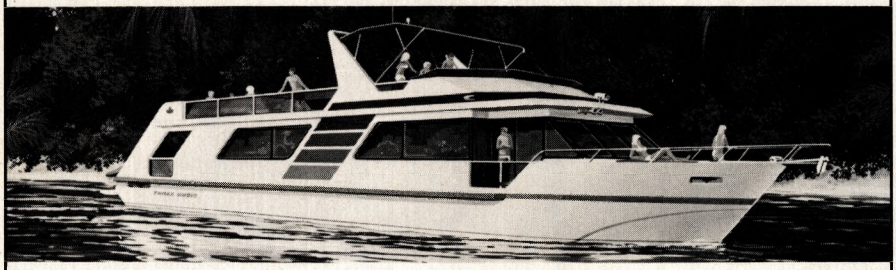

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GET MY GOAT

tender and delicious; that young nannies were OK and that old rams were tough as tires. But, hunger has a way of diminishing the negative aspects of the hunt. I figured if I bagged the ram we could pound the steaks like abalone and eat for a month. I sighted in on the ram and fired. Whap! The ram froze for an instant and then peeled off into space. He didn't splash into the water as the old scenario related; he crashed down onto the rocky beach. I couldn't just drive the boat over and hoist him aboard. I'd have to anchor and go get him.

The anchorage in that immediate area isn't very good. The bottom is shallow and sandy. I had to let out a lot of scope on the anchorline to get a good hook-up. Another problem was getting the ram out to the boat. I wasn't sure he would float so I got out a BC to put on him. Then I stripped to my shorts and swam to shore.

That goat was a lot bigger than I thought. I mean, he weighed something like 200 pounds. It was a real effort just to drag the carcass down the sloping beach. I put the BC on the goat, fastened it securely and blew it full of air. Then I dragged the ram out as far as I could and started swimming. It wasn't easy. That goat was big and heavy and had a lot of resistance in the water. I couldn't get a good kick either, because his legs were in the way. Thoughts of hungry sharks began to erode my waning macho.

Then, quite suddenly, the afternoon surface chop came up, along with a brisk breeze. I began inhaling a lot of water. Next, I was startled almost into coronary arrest by a sudden bump on the leg and dark shapes zipping through the chalky water around me. Sharks, I thought and released the goat. It wasn't sharks. It was a group of curious sea lions. At that point I was nearing the low ebb of my goat meat enthusiasm. I grabbed a massive horn and resumed swimming. Somehow I wasn't having much fun. Instead of getting closer, the boat seemed to be getting farther away. The wind was pushing the boat to the opposite end of its anchorline radius. It was a long, hard swim.

By the time I got the goat to the boat I had sucked in so much sea water, and was so overexerted, I was almost sick. I climbed aboard and really strained to get the goat up and over the gunwale. It was hopeless. I was just too worn out and weak to get him aboard. And, that poor soggy goat smelled so strong I did get sick, really sick. As my stomach heaved in protest, I just let go of the goat and collapsed on the deck for five or ten minutes. After I regained my composure and pulled anchor, the goat, along with my BC, was lost in a sea of whitecaps.

Back in Avalon it took awhile to locate Norris and Lomond and their fan club.

"Where's the goat, Anderson?" they asked in unison. I told them the story. They didn't believe me. It became a running gag that went on all evening. We were still arguing about it at 10:00 that night when we went into the Marlin Club. As usual it was noisy but this evening the noise was mainly concentrated on two slightly inebriated abalone divers who were trying their best to convince a houseful of unbelieving patrons that they had just found a 200 pound goat, five miles at sea, wearing a BC.

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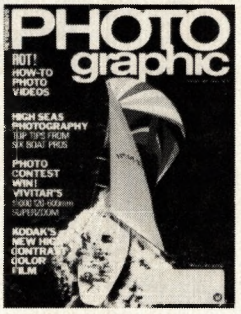

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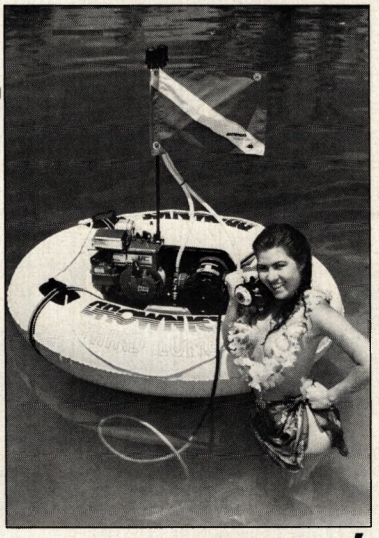

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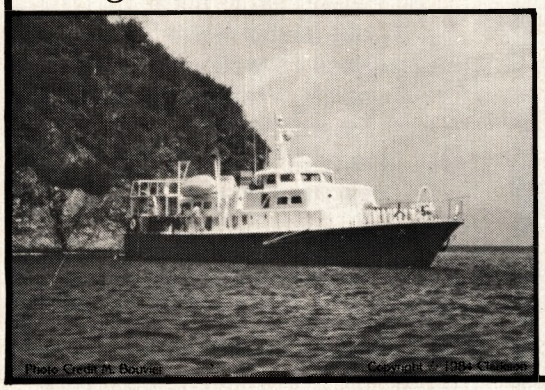

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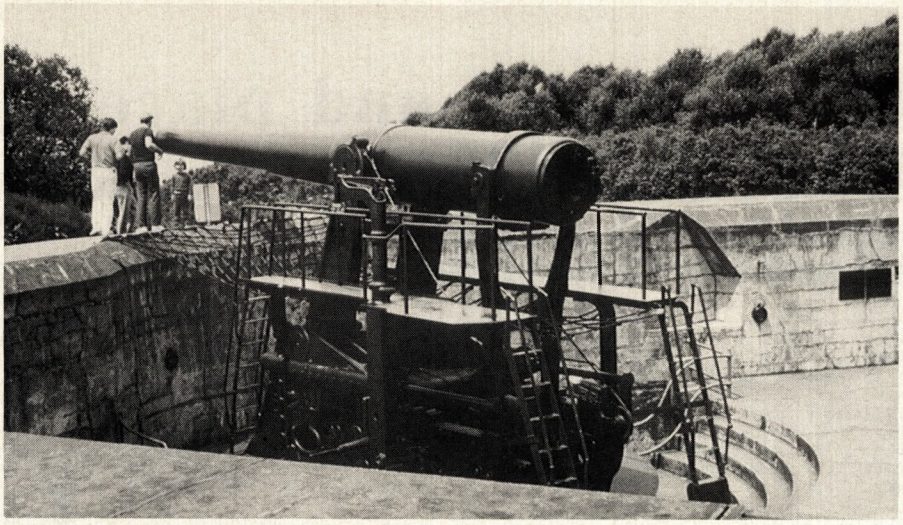

One of two 10 inch diameter disappearing carriage guns on display at Fort Casey. These guns were procured from Fort Wint in the Philippines. Fort Casey's original guns were scrapped after World War I.

time chief of the Army Corps of Engineers. During his career Casey supervised construction of many well known projects such as the Washington Monument and the Library of Congress.

Mounting of the guns at Fort Casey was completed by January 26, 1900 and included 19 guns and 16, 12 inch mortars. The real strength of the fort was the seven 10 inch guns mounted on disappearing carriages overlooking Admiralty Inlet. During the Civil War it was shown that guns, when exposed to the direct fire of ships, could not be kept in action. In 1866 the disappearing carriage was established as a requirement for American defenses by the Army Board of Fortification. Guns of this type were withdrawn behind a thick concrete parapet after each round was fired. The first test firing at Fort Casey was performed on September 11, 1901.

After World War I the weapons and strategy used at the fort had been surpassed in technology. Ships became less vulnerable as a result of heavier armor and improved damage repair. Newer vessels aided by rapidly developing air power brought about new military strategy that finally resulted in coastal forts, such as Fort Casey, becoming obsolete. After World War I Fort Casey was placed on caretaker status. All armament was scrapped and melted down for other purposes between 1922 and 1945.

WW II brought new life to the fort and it was reactivated as a training center. Barracks were rebuilt and anti-aircraft guns mounted in the old emplacements.

In 1950 Fort Casey was once again placed in caretaker status when it could no longer be used in any military capacity. In 1956 the GSA sold it to the State of Washington to be used as a state historical park. In 1968 two three inch rapid fire guns and two 10 inch disappearing carriage guns were procured from Fort Wint in the Philippines. They are now on display at Fort Casey.

In 1971 the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission established an underwater park at the fort. A jetty serving as a breakwater for the Whidbey Island to Port Townsend ferry run marks the western boundary. The eastern boundary is marked by an abandoned wharf approximately 700 feet from the jetty. Although the park is classified as an "underwater recreational area" in which

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Morris Photo
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Aqua F-III TTL U/W flash w/arm, tray, and TTL cord 269.50

Helix Special Nikonos Packages
Package 1C: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN & Marine Eye (28mm adapter) 489.00**
Package 2A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mmf2.5 UWN, Aqua F-III TTL (w/arm, tray & sync cord),dive light & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 748.00**
Package 3A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Speedlight SB-103 (w/arm, tray, sync cord, diffuser, case & spare o-rings) & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 809.00**
Marine Eye (28mm) adapter, Close Eye V
Package 4A: Nikonos V camera (w/battery & spare o-rings), 35mm f2.5 UWN, Aquaflash 28 TTL (w/arm, tray, TTL sync cord, remote sensor w/slave, diffuser (15mm) & spare o-rings) dive light, light mount & equipment case (18x13x8") w/foam 905.00**
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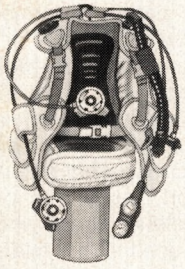

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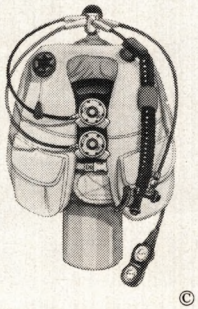

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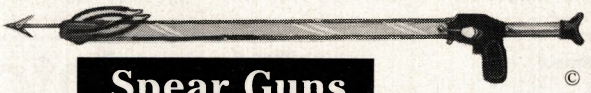

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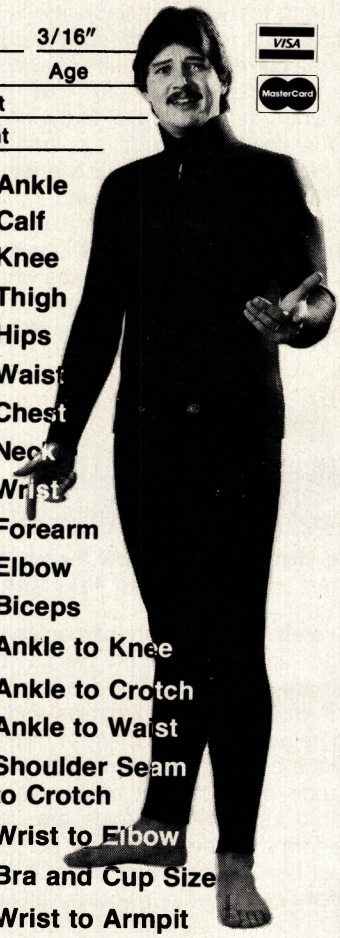

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_____Knee
_____Thigh
_____Hips
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_____Chest
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_____Wrist
_____Forearm
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FORT CASEY

divers are prohibited from injuring or impairing the natural beauty or usefulness of the area, divers are not legally prohibited from spearfishing or gathering marine life if this is done in accordance with Department of Fish and Game regulations. Nevertheless, owing largely to peer pressure to conserve and protect park resources for future enjoyment by the diving community, divers over the years have voluntarily refrained from spearfishing and collecting marine life here. This "look but don't take" philosophy is responsible for the park's becoming one of the most exciting and popular shore dives in the state.

The most heavily dived area of the park is the jetty that extends 75 yards into Keystone Harbor. This is comprised of loosely piled boulders of gigantic proportions, creating an incredible underwater panorama for the wide angle photographer.

Divers enter the calm water near the rock jetty at Fort Casey Underwater Park.

The boulders are blanketed by pure white plumose anemones, giving the appearance of a snow covered mountain slope. The cobble bottom gradually descends to a depth of 60 feet at the end of the jetty. Extreme caution must be taken when diving here during periods of large tidal exchange. Wicked currents sweep seaward that, at times, are so strong the diver's only means of return is by grasping the rocks and pulling himself/herself hand-over-hand to the shallows. This can be quite difficult for the photographer trying to protect camera equipment from damage. To best enjoy diving the jetty, begin your dive 20 minutes before high slack tide when the current is minimal and visibility is enhanced by the incoming tide.

The fish on the jetty are large, plentiful and arrogant in their awareness that divers leave their spearguns at home. Schools of shiny sea perch faithfully patrol the shallows. Yellow and blue spotted kelp greenlings dominate the bottom all the way to the end of the jetty and are cooperative photographic subjects. Lingcods, also members of the greenling family, are commonly seen guarding their eggs. Many other species of fish reside on the jetty including cabezons, gunnels, painted greenlings, black-eye gobies, the brilliantly colored red Irish lords and a wide variety of rockfish. Away from the jetty on the sandy flats, divers regularly spot flounders and, on occasion, ratfish and skates, relatives of the shark.

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FORT CASEY

In addition to its incredibly diverse fish life, the jetty is also home to myriads of decorator crabs, pacific pink scallops, coon stripe shrimp, sea cucumbers, urchins and multicolored seastars.

The jetty is truly an aquatic wonderland and the primary attraction of the park. To fully experience the beauty of the park, however, the pilings of the abandoned wharf and their surroundings at the eastern boundary is a dive that must not be missed. Strong currents sweep through, creating an ideal environment for filter feeding marine life that transforms the pilings into dazzling columns of colors.

Diving the wharf at slack tide is not as critical as it is when diving the jetty. Unlike the current that sweeps seaward over the jetty, the current that flows through the wharf moves parallel to the shoreline and is slowed by the pilings themselves.

The wharf complements the jetty nicely. The shallow depth around it makes it a perfect second dive after exploring the deeper jetty. While the jetty is a wide angle photographer's delight, the wharf is a macrophotographer's dream. Invertebrate life is everywhere. The pilings are

The shallow water below the abandoned wharf is a haven to invertebrates.

covered by giant acorn barnacles with orange "lips" between the paired "beaks" that are exposed during feeding.

Surrounding the barnacles and covering nearly every inch of those pilings, taking the brunt of the current flow, are vivid orange hydroids that make spectacular macro subjects. Hydroids are common life forms at the wharf and perhaps the most beautiful is the pink tubularian (*Tubularia crocea*). These creatures are generally found in clusters attached to almost any solid object in shallow water. Single polyps sit high on sparsely branched stalks. Each polyp has a set of short, threadlike tentacles around its mouth and longer ones around the base. Clusters of pink grapelike reproductive organs give this hydroid its color.

Where tubularian hydroids are found, so will the diver find the red gilled nudibranch, this hydroid's most voracious predator. These invertebrates are small, reaching a maximum length of only one and one-half inches (32mm). Although called the red gilled nudibranch, the projections on its back are not gills but instead contain slender extensions of the gut. When the nudibranch feeds on the hydroid it incorporates the hydroid's

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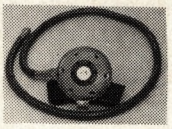

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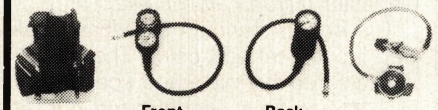
Super Special 10



Front Back

***Sea Elite Mariner B.C.**
Advanced design bouyancy compensator, two pockets, back pack pad cover, cummerbund, soft touch inflator system. Limited lifetime warranty. List price $300. If purchased individually from Divers Supply $189.95

***Sea Elite SE1000 Balanced Regulator**
Sea Elite balanced regulator, rugged dependable and high performance. Limited lifetime warranty. List price $250. If purchased individually from Divers Supply $99.95

***Parkway Three Gauge Console**
Three gauge console with 170 ft. depth gauge with maximum depth indicator, 5000 PSI pressure gauge, with side view compass. List price $170. If purchased individually from Divers Supply $99.95

Total package-Jacket, Console, Regulator

List $700.00 **$389.95**

Super Special 8

Tabata TUSA Liberator Bouyancy Compensator
TUSA jacket with padded back pack, advanced design, cummerbund, two pockets, rapid exhaust valve. Choose from black/blue, lavender/pink, blue/yellow, navy/pink. List $390.00. If purchased individually from Divers Supply $254.95.

Tabata TUSA Regulator
This TR200 regulator has balanced first stage, flow through piston second stage, two high pressure ports and four low pressure ports. Colors are blue, lavender, yellow, pink, navy and flourescent orange. List $260.00. If purchased individually from Divers Supply $159.95.

Tabata TUSA SCA50DX Console
TUSA's latest design console has 5000 psi pressure gauge, 160 feet maximum depth, side view compass, thermometer and aluminum knife. Comes in black, blue, navy, yellow, pink and lavender. List $332.00. If purchased individually from Divers Supply $198.95.

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Super Special 21

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Tekna T2870 Console
This remarkable console has everything! 5000 PSI pressure gauge, 240 feet maximum depth gauge, altitude compensator, cobalt compass, automatic digital dive timer and silver knife. List $299.95. If purchased individually from Divers Supply $193.95.

Sea Elite Systems Mariner BC
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Total package - Jacket, Regulator Console

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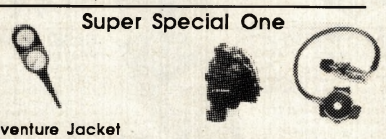

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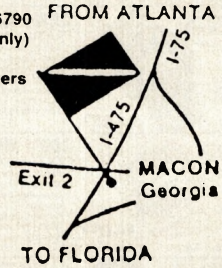

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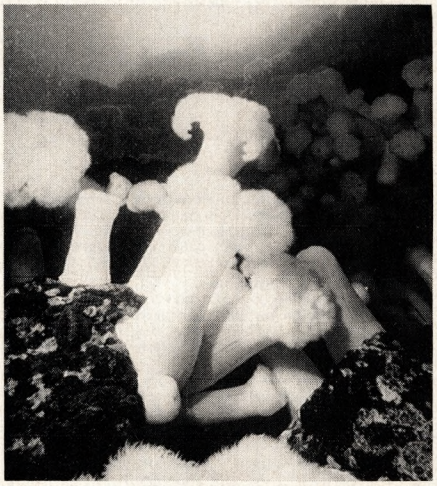
stinging cells (nematocysts) into the tissues of these projections so they can explode on contact just as they would in the hydroid's tentacles. The wharf harbors many varieties of nudibranchs including the yellow sea lemon (*Anisodoris nobilis*), the orange-tipped (*Triopha catalinae*), the ringed (*Discodoris sandiegenis*) and the alabaster (*Dirona albolineata*).

The bottom beneath the wharf is alive with movement and color. Thousands of multicolored hermit crabs scavenge the rock-strewn floor. Finger-sized coralline, longfin and snubnose sculpins scurry about and are challenging photographic subjects. *Telia* anemones in beautiful pastels and countless purple feather-duster worms give the wharf the appearance of an undersea flower garden. Divert your attention from the bottom for a second and you are likely to see a pulsating jellyfish gracefully riding the current



White *Metridium* anemones blanket the giant boulders of the jetty at Fort Casey.

or a school of sleek tubesnout fish meandering past. The highlight of any dive at the underwater park is an encounter with the giant Pacific octopus. An expert camouflage artist, the intelligent but shy octopus will only occasionally be spotted in the open by observant divers.

The richness of its sealife and its kaleidoscope of colors has truly made Fort Casey Underwater Park one of Puget Sound's premier dive sites. To accommodate the many divers who travel from all over the Pacific Northwest to visit it, as well as the many diving instructors who conduct classes here and their students, changing rooms with coin-operated hot showers have been installed along with an outdoor freshwater shower for rinsing gear. There is ample parking available, although the prime parking spots nearest the beach are usually filled on weekends by 9:00 am. Air fills and gear rentals are available at Whidbey Divers, a full service

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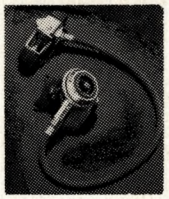

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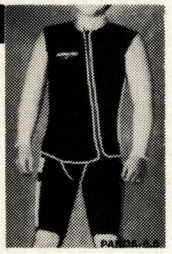

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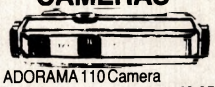
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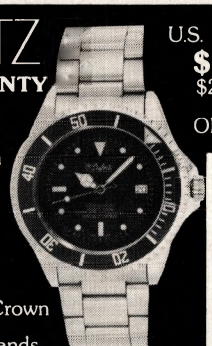
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The old adage "getting there is half the fun" is true for Fort Casey. There are three major access routes. On the southern end of the island, a 20 minute ferry ride connects to the mainland at Mukilteo, about 30 miles north of Seattle. A well maintained highway stretches the length of the island through rolling ranch and farm land and lush stands of evergreen timber. To the west loom the Olympic Mountains and to the east the Cascade range. Deer, blue herons and bald eagles are commonly seen here. The drive north will take you through the 17,000 acre Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, which includes the farm land of Ebey's Prarie, Ebey's Landing State Park, Fort Casey, Fort Ebey and historic Coupeville, one of the oldest towns in the State of Washington.

On the north, Whidbey Island is connected to the mainland by the Deception Pass Bridge, which spans a spectacular chasm of raging water with currents reaching up to eight knots during maximum tidal runs. The panoramic view while crossing the bridge is one of the most beautiful in the state.

On the west coast near the center of the island, ferries link Keystone on Whidbey Island with Port Townsend on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. This is a good access route when traveling north on the coast or south from Vancouver Island, British Columbia and crossing the Strait of Juan de Fuca on the Victoria to Port Angeles ferry.

The underwater park at Fort Casey will continue to delight those Pacific Northwest divers privileged to behold its wonders, provided the diving community and state park authorities remain true to their commitment to preservation and protection. To ensure that its marine life continues to flourish, a proposal is now before the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission to reclassify the underwater park as an "underwater natural area," which would prohibit the collection of marine life and fishing by any method and would encourage nonconsumptive activities such as underwater photography. When it considers this proposal, hopefully the commission will recognize that Fort Casey Underwater Park is a very special place worthy of very special treatment.

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The Treasure Coast's oldest full service dive shop. PADI instruction, air, sales, rentals, repairs, trips.

VORTEX SPRING DIVING RESORT 904/836-4979
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A ADMIRAL 1-65 FEET OF COMFORT AND FUN! 800/346-DIVE
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1 BR/1 BA or 3 BR/2 BA, from just $400/wk. Totally furnished includ. your own dock; just 10 naut. miles from Looe Key—Best diving in Keys! Boats avail. Reserve soon. 815/838-3282.

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PADI Training Facility. Pennekamp our specialty over 25 years. 3-7 day packages. For reservations call toll free 800/634-8464.

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Savor moonrise & palms at your 60' dock! 1 BR./1 BA., living room, kitchen, sleeps 4. Many dive charters, boat rentals & watersports in area. 5 mi. to Pennekamp. Great ambiance! $395 per week.

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Dv. aboard our 40' 'Scuba Safari' & 34' 'Free 'n Clear'. Full/½ day trips to Alligator Reef, Eagle Wreck & Coral Gardens. Pkgs. avail.

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30' Cust. boat w/sundeck, 6 max. 1 Trip daily, family rates, brunch served, cust. dv. pkgs. avail. Rec. by Undercurrent '82.

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P.O. Box 1663, Key Largo, FL 33037 MM 99.5 U.S. 1 past Wendy's
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CAPT. GREG'S SCUBA-DO 305/451-3446
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Dive Pennekamp, 34' boat, 6 max. No crowds. Personal service. Combination dive & fish trips available. Furn. apartment available.

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Near Pennekamp, Dive Shops, Boat Rentals & Shopping.
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to ocean, 20 to Pennekamp, 15 to Bay, 30 min. to Islamorada
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P.O. Box 573, Tavernier, FL 33070 MM 92½
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KINGSAIL MOTEL—DIVING RESORT FL 800/423-7474
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Dive and fishing charters arranged.

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Dive package with Key Largo Holiday Inn.

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I Learned About Diving From That Alaska Lesson

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM SIMMEN

Every spring the Japanese buy kelp laden with herring eggs. This is considered a delicacy and good money is paid for it. Since Alaskan kelp can be harvested only by hand, it is collected by divers.

For two weeks of work the previous year a friend of mine had made close to $5,000. When he told me the exciting story and offered me a partnership, I jumped at the opportunity. He had the boat and all I had to do was come up with a hookah pump.

To make a long story short, Walt could not make the trip. However, I did meet the captain of a fishing vessel who was looking for a diver with a hookah pump and I had one. Our mutual needs started our friendship.

The captain's sister-in-law was to be my diving partner. She was a short, fragile looking lady whose ability I questioned upon first sight. She was a realtor by profession from the lower 48 states and had come up specifically for the herring harvest. She had little diving experience but a lot of enthusiasm. We gathered in Whittier, Alaska, where the boat was docked and navigated Prince William Sound to Valdez where the opening would take place.

To determine when to open the herring roe season, the Alaskan Department of Fish and Game takes samples of the kelp in different areas around Valdez and watches the development of the eggs. Officials then decide how much should be taken from where, when.

Twice it was prematurely announced that the season was about to open, but it didn't. This meant we spent a lot of idle time and money hanging around in Valdez.

During the wait I discovered my partner could not actually dive. Although I used to teach scuba diving in Southern California, I could not really help her because she was afraid of all the equipment and, to be more specific, the water. Different divers from different fishing vessels took turns trying to help her get used to the water. She did manage to get into her drysuit and, while floating on her back atop the water, breathe from her regulator. I realized it would be light years before she would dare stick her hand into a bed of kelp full of tiny sea creatures, blindly cut the kelp at its roots and stuff it, sea creatures and all, into an oversized goodie bag.

As the season's opening dragged on, so did tales of its duration. With so many boats in the area it was predicted the season would last only two or three days: The herring roe in the area was not as thick as expected.

Fish and Game finally opened the season about ten miles out of Valdez. Our first day was a total fiasco. As the captain and I were ignorant of the locations for picking kelp, we decided not to follow the other boats that clustered in a few small bays. Instead, we scouted new bays for the bonanza kelp bed we never quite found.

The second day did not start off much better. We began our search in a picturesque cove surrounded by spruce trees with the tall peaks of mountains in the background. It was populated by a lone spotted seal. I jumped into the water and sank about 40 feet to the bottom. It was sandy, with little clumps of hair kelp clustered around scattered rocks.

I was moving toward shallower water, breathing heavily from the hookah rig and toting the hose along behind me. I exhaled completely and slowly took a long hard breath of air. I noticed I was breathing faster in the cold, deep and much darker water. I had exhaled fully and when I tried to inhale I got no air. It was as if my lungs had run into a brick wall. My lungs were deflated and I really needed some air. But, though I was working hard, it was like trying to suck through a straw that was blocked off at the other end.

Kelp laden with herring eggs is weighed dockside. The kelp is harvested by divers.

When I realized I was not going to get any air out of the regulator, I looked to the dark water overhead and shot upward. I did not have to worry about exhaling little bubbles to avoid air embolism as I had no air in my lungs. As I kicked upward, slowly the outline of the surface came to view. When I could see the sky reflected in the rippling surface, I began to relax slightly.

However, it seemed no matter how hard I kicked I couldn't get any closer. I did not panic, but it suddenly occurred to me that I still had 50 pounds of weight around my waist and my suit was deflated and very heavy.

I reached down for the weightbelt with my three fingered gloves and unfastened the buckle. The belt fell right off. So much for holding the weights away from my body.

I shot for the surface, exploded from the water, raised my arm straight up into the air, took one big breath and hollered for help.

For a moment I felt buoyant and relieved as I watched the faces gathered on the port side of the boat stare at me and move back and forth. I gulped down air feverishly.

Suddenly, as if a sea monster had taken hold of my fins, I felt myself being pulled down under the water again. Before I knew what happened, I was submerged with my cheeks puffed out with my last breath of air. I kicked for my life and broke the surface again, hollering for help. Once again I was pulled under. I fought with arms and legs, bobbing up and down. I realized I could get a breath of air when I really needed one but I didn't know how long that would go on.

The captain got into his small rowboat—tied alongside the vessel—and came out to rescue me. I clutched the gunwales with the tenacity of an octopus and pulled myself into the skiff. This last tremendous leap finally released me from the bottom.

I was not panicked, but I was exhausted.

When I got back to the boat, we figured out what had happened. The borrowed air hose had three pieces, each with a quick disconnect. The tender aboard the boat was belaying the hose out when it apparently struck the side of the boat and snapped loose. This left me without an air source. The monster pulling me under the water had been my weightbelt. It had slid down the hose, pinning it to the bottom.

I had practiced emergency ascents both as a student and as an instructor but I forgot to hold onto the belt and make sure it dropped away from me. Later I could only think of excuses for not doing so.

If I'd thought of it at the time, I could've disconnected the hose from my suit. I would then have been free of the hose completely. But, I wasn't into thinking, only trying to breathe.

Not wanting to quit diving, especially after a two week delay and being the only diver aboard, we taped the quick-releases back together. I jumped back into the water and retrieved my weightbelt. Then I asked the captain to move into the group of other boats and let me dive for the kelp where everyone else was.

When the day ended at 6:00 pm we had more than a ton of kelp aboard. I felt good about that and hoped I had learned my lesson. In an emergency ascent, remove the weightbelt, hold it away from the body, then drop it. Secondly, be wary about using borrowed gear. You might save a few dollars in the short run, but in the long run you might not get the chance to return it.

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